



Our Lord Feeds 5000

Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

When & while John the Baptist was imprisoned by Herod Antipas for speaking against his unlawful marriage as in before his execution that was so skillfully arraigned by Herodias via Salome- Jesus in the meantime had already dispatched His Apostles 2x2 by His authority with them using His Divine power to prepare the oft overlooked rural and remote areas of Galilee for Jesus's soon arrival.

✝ So they (Apostles) went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³ And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them. Mark 6:12-13 ESV

After the execution of the Baptist- Antipas, was no doubt surprised to learn that this was not the end of the matter but rather only the beginning of all of this repent from Sin stuff bringing a Spiritual revival. All because the prophesized Messiah of the Baptizer was alive & well in Galilee right under Antipas's nose no less. With this narrative being from Antipas's perspective.

Not only that but this "Jesus of Nazareth" the Baptizers personally named Christ, this Jesus- His chief Apostles were likewise now rumored to also be supernaturally healing people in Jesus's name.

Get that?

Being such the fame of Jesus's name was now spreading even more like wildfire throughout all of Israel.

Continuing

✝ King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." ¹⁵ But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶ But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." Mark 6:14-16 ESV

Again, when Herod executed John during this time of marital civil war in Galilee, while knowing Rome was looking to quell any and all costly trouble, Jesus, quietly withdrew into Antipas's brother Phillips territory out of his reach:

✝ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. Matthew 14:13 ESV

Note: here above Matthew does have more to say but John adds specifics

✝ After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. John 6:1 ESV

At this time and place knowing the present Roman & Antipas danger Jesus recalls His Apostles unto Him.

✝ On their return the apostles told him (Jesus) all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called (Julia) Bethsaida. (Galilee not Judea) Dr. Luke 9:10 ESV
(Into Herod Phillip's territory who was now more concerned with his impending marriage to Salome)

Take a look again Bible studying friend of the scriptures used on the previous page. Even using the same Biblical version please note that all 4 of the separate Gospels combined give to us an astonishing amount of detail of the immediate days following the execution of John the Baptist. Now on this thought; as we are about to learn and discern one of the most public of Jesus's miracles the spontaneous feeding of over 10K+ people! (Undisputed how could it be denied!!)

Here once again we will use what is called the "Interwoven Gospel." Meaning all 4 of the Gospels do record this event so their narratives with their details are combined into one reading so we do not have to bounce back and forth between these 4 books.

Officially for reference our combined Scriptures are:
Matthew 14:13-21 ~ Mark 6:33-44 ~ Luke 9:11-17 ~ John 6:2-14

✝ But many saw them going (Apostles) and knew Him, (Jesus) And when the multitudes heard of it, they followed Him and ran together there on foot from all the cities and outran them;(Apostles) because they beheld the signs which He did on the sick. And when Jesus came forth,(Bethsaida) He went up into the mountain and sat there with His disciples.

Miles that is up to 10 or more some of these people had to have traveled on foot just to reach Jesus.

Ok, as a geographical reference; today we call this area the hotly contested "Golan Heights."

The basaltic lava rock plateau region that Israel retook from southwestern Syria as a result of the 6-day war of 1967. Golan was then once again after nearly 2 millennia officially annexed by Israel in 1981.

For those who do not know; in 1967 a total of 5 neighboring Arab nations began to amass armies to attack Israel & in a surprising move- Israel, then victoriously struck their adversaries first before they had moved their military forces into attack position. (This Israeli victory was viewed worldwide as miraculously Divine)

Resulting in the "purple "aka ceasefire line of 67.

This purple line has become the defacto modern border between Syria and Israel thusly creating a buffer safety zone in between them.

While of course Islamic & Arab nations alike do continue to protest this fact. (Jewish Re-Annexation of Golan)

Continuing

✝ Now the Passover was near, the feast of the Jews. Then Jesus lifted up His eyes and saw a great multitude coming to Him; and He had compassion on them, because they were as sheep having no shepherd. And He welcomed them; and He began to teach them many things, and spake to them about the kingdom of God. And their sick that had need of healing, he cured.

This being the second Passover of the three recorded in the public Ministry of Christ our Lord.

Jesus felt the earnest desire of these people- His people, seeking the "Will" of His Heavenly Father.

These remote northern Galileans were distressed by the spiritual wolves that were the Pharisee's, while being additionally oppressed by the might of Rome coupled with the political corruption of the Herod's.

These "lost" sheep of Israel should have been Shepherded by the Pharisee's, but they were actual abandoned and disdained by them. While some Biblical Theologians & Jewish Historians alike have entertained the notion that after the death of the Baptizer- his followers, were also now seeking Jesus.

This further alienating the Pharisee's because instead of returning to them they began to call on Jesus.

As an additional reminder we have spoken about this before that the “Kingdom of GOD” taught in Synagogue in Jesus Time being previously preached by John the Baptist was now being fulfilled in Christ Jesus.

This does convey a slightly different meaning to the believing Jew than it does for the Gospel of Grace by Faith of the convicted in our Sin then knowingly convinced & confessing Christian.

We are Justified by Christ through His Salvation.

✝ For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. (When we say yea or nah to Jesus as our Saving Christ.) Matthew 12:37 KJV

In short had Israel accepted Jesus during His first Advent He would have then and there in Jesus Time have initiated and implemented what we as Christians via Revelation 20 call “Thy Millennial Kingdom to Come.” (But we know that Jesus came the first time to qualify people to be able to enter into the Kingdom Age)

As for Christ our Saving Messiah King and His Divine Miracles:

Yes, as our Creator Jesus had/has compassion on those seeking Him, however, this was not the greater reason of His Divine Miracles of supernatural healing.

Jesus’s miracles do serve as the proof that His Words were/are true.

Continuing

✝ Now when evening was come and the day began to decline, it being already a late hour, the twelve disciples came to Him, saying, "The place is desert, it is already a late hour and the time is passed by; send the multitudes away that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and lodge and buy themselves something to eat."

The scriptural description here of a “days decline” in Jesus Time meant the sun was past its noon high and was well on its way down toward the horizon. At this time of year near the Passover, we can surmise that it was about 3-4 in the afternoon. Again, for the Jews the next day began at sunset.

There was also an additional concern as for our Lord’s Apostles pertaining to the crowds- It was Passover time.

This is Why? So many people were out and about in transit because they were supposed to be well on there way to Temple in Jerusalem. But now they had diverted and went in the opposite direction following Jesus. Drove of them!

Get that?

The Pharisee’s had to have been livid.

All of these people were most likely carrying their Temple Tithe and Tax money with them.

While back to our point; yes, inns and travel lodges with provisions along the travel routes to Jerusalem would have been open and more than ready for business. But everywhere near this remote location would have been sparse at best even during normal days, but now at Passover to say the sidewalks were rolled up and the businesses shut down would be an understatement.

The Apostles were concerned that these people might have had money on them, but you can’t eat coins!

Continuing

✝ But Jesus answered and said to them, "They have no need to go away; give ye them to eat." And they (Apostles) say to Him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred shillings' worth of loaves and give them to eat?"

This next event is the only publicly displayed miracle by our Lord and Savior that is each recorded and yet undisputed by Christ's enemies to be found within all four of His Gospel accounts.

Ok, 200 Shillings or Denarii in the original Greek would be about 7 months wages because the average worker in Jesus Time typically earned roughly a single shilling/denarii wage as a good days pay.

Notice the Apostles were initially concerned for the physical needs of the crowd and unlike the Pharisee's who had every intention of fleecing these people when they reached Jerusalem. So, Christ our Lord then informs His Disciples to provide from themselves the needs of the people.

Exasperated at Jesus's answer that they- Christ's Apostles, were to provide bread for these people they express what a great sum of money it would take to buy even a small amount of bread for everyone present and within this astonishment was the unspoken question of even "if" we had the money there is nowhere to go and buy such a vast amount of bread.

Continuing

✝ Then He (Jesus) saith to them, "How many loaves have ye? Go and see." He saith to Philip, "Whence shall we buy bread that we may eat?" Now this He said to try him; for He Himself knew what He was about to do. Philip answered Him, "Two hundred shillings' worth of loaves is not sufficient for them, that each one may take a little." One of His disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, saith to Him, "There is a lad here, who hath five barley loaves and two small fishes; but what are these to so many?"

Hint Jesus already knew what He was going to do even before the Apostles realized the full problem.

Yes, Phillip and Andrew having now been exposed and identified by the Lord as for their thoughts albeit doubts about this situation.

Get that? As Believers Jesus already knew what was on their minds and in their hearts.

Phillip expressed concerns about how much would this cost? To feed such a multitude and even where would we buy these provisions on such a short notice in this very remote location while on a holiday?

Whereas Andrew had an inkling that perhaps Jesus could do something about the situation if given the right happenstance of circumstance so very timidly Andrew states that a young boy had a lunch with him.

So, are these not the normal typical human reactions of when a great opportunity comes our way (a Church Congregation) as for serving the Lord with the opportunity of meeting a need for the Lord?

What we perceive as impossible is actually us- the Believers, preventing the Blessings of an opportunity. As in a seemingly unattainable finical or logistical burden standing in its "Way."

In short Phillip was overwhelmed by the sheer financial restraints whereas Andrew did see a very meager portion of resource but not enough to even call it laughable at achieving the result Jesus wanted.

Now the young boy's loaves and fish- the small barley loaves, these were cheaper than wheat loaves and were considered to be the fare of a poor person. As in low cost.

Being such Barley was usually the grain in Jesus Time used to produce livestock feed.

For further reference the "Mishna" aka the oral Torah which is the spoken traditions of Israel does specify that a person accused of adultery until their name was cleared that they were only permitted to eat Barley. As in the meal of animals.

Think about How? This must have made a poor disadvantaged person feel.

That the Pharisee's prescribed as punishment for suspected infidelity only what they could afford to eat.

As for the small boy's fish the Gospel of John in English uses the word "Opsarion." Greek # 3795 (fish relish) Which was essentially small dried pickled fish sort of like Sardines.

Remember the Jewish people have very strict Biblical dietary restrictions called “Kosher.” (fit/proper)
The “Talmud” (Jewish legal study/ruling/commentary on GOD’S Law) did & does contain permission for several Galilean small fish variates to be pickled and or salted then seen fit or Kosher for Jewish consumption.
Again, with only one small boy packing a lunch he was most likely too young to go to Jerusalem (under 12) while everyone else having no provision means they were most likely intending to travel on the relatively safe and accepted routes to Temple where sustenance & lodging could be easily attained.
So, in short Jesus was making sure each of His Apostles clearly understood what He had just asked for them to do. To feed this entire crowd by what human resources they had available.
Being one small boy’s lunch consisting of a few barley loaves which were most likely flatbread with a few small pickled fish meant to be crumbled up & then rolled up into the bread.
Impossible is the word we are looking for here as for the feeding of this crowd from such meager portion.
Also, the Apostles having just been recalled to this location by Jesus for their protection putting distance between themselves and Antipas Herod while our Scripture has previously mentioned these Disciples of Christ were exhausted.
Each mentally, physically, & Spiritually drained having just given their all for Christ & they were tired.
Now Jesus is asking the seemingly impossible while they- His believers, are now at the end of their strength and resources while far away from home. It is miracle time!
As in Jesus will now show them and it is recorded for us just what they & we work so hard in Ministry for. For Him! (unto others)

Continuing

✝ And He (Jesus) said, "Bring them here to Me." (Loaves & Fish) Now there was much grass in the place. Then He said to His disciples, "Make the people recline on the green grass in companies, by fifties." And they did so, and made them all recline in ranks by hundreds and by fifties. And the men were in number about five thousand.

Ok, finally something the Apostles by now had each grown accustomed and were by Biblical description good at this being crowd control. 5000 men means one would also naturally think this also meant another 5000 women plus how many additional teenagers present now old enough to travel with their parents as required by Pharisaical Law that they also must attend Temple during Passover within Jerusalem? So, can we safely say a crowd of approximately 10-12K?

Think about that; now all sitting orderly & patiently awaiting Jesus as they had been instructed to do.

Continuing

✝ Jesus, therefore, took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke the loaves, and kept giving to the disciples to set before the multitude. And the two fishes divided He likewise among them all, as much as they wished. And they all ate and were satisfied. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Several times in Scripture Jesus stands while speaking loudly with His eyes open face up toward Heaven while publicly Praying to His Father. We as Christians tend to reverently bow our heads in a respectful manor but Jesus Himself can and often did Pray in this powerful “Way” for each Himself and others.
The customary Jewish Benediction in Jesus Time offered for food in Praise with Thanksgiving goes like this: “Praise be you Adonai Elohim (Jehovah Lord GOD) King of the universe who brings forth bread from the earth.”
Just so there is no mistake nor misunderstanding- Jesus spontaneously creates/replicates as he breaks the seemingly meager portions of bread and fish into endlessly sufficient individual portions.

Jesus just keeps handing & handing bread and fish and then handing some more all to His Apostles as in His Blessings and provision to be distributed amongst the people what it is that they (we) need from Him. Question? How many Sermons could be taught on that thought alone.

Imagine the sight it must have been.

Amazingly surreal to see the spontaneous reproduction of edibles out of nothing but thin air.

Was this faster than the eye could see?

In Greek the word used here for the replication of the loaves and fish represent continuous action.

When Jesus handed the food to an Apostle His hands were already full again where the food had been.

The best part is over 10K people had witnessed this miraculous event for themselves.

It was never reputed nor ever disputed by Christ's enemies because far too many people had saw it.

What one small boy presented in Faith was multiplied continuously by Jesus to literally feed a multitude.

This leads one to ponder if Jesus Christ our Lord can do this with the Faith of just one young child, of course with this representing two things:

First that Jesus multiplies and uses our gifts unto Him through Him to assist with the needs of others.

Second that Faith in Christ our Lord is our sufficiency even amidst our most dire deficiency.

Continuing

✝ Now when they were filled, He (Jesus) saith to His disciples, "Gather up the broken pieces that are left over, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with pieces from the five barley loaves and from the fishes, that were left over by those who had eaten. The men, therefore, seeing the sign that he did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who cometh into the world."

More than what they had started with 12 Baskets of excess for the 12 Apostles of the 12 Tribes of Israel. Meaning Jesus is our ample portion more than any of us could ever need.

Today we underestimate just what a struggle it was in Jesus Time to even be able to eat every single day.

Also waste not want not was actually the Law: (Jesus being & needing to be Sinless breaks no Law)

The Halakhah the collective of Laws and Ordances that regulate daily Jewish life (Shabbat 50b & 147b) do each forbid the destruction of usable food stuff.

The Apostle Phillip thought it was flat out impossible for them to feed this crowd. (apart from Jesus it was)

The Apostle Andrew had an idea that Christ could, but he lacked the Faith Jesus would feed the crowd.

Get that?

Jesus demonstrated to Phillip His authority and superiority over what we deem as the rational & physical.

Jesus demonstrated to Andrew that childlike "Faith" can produce miracles in of & for the Lord.

In short; do not overlook the fact that this miracle is far more astounding than we even begin to realize.

A Hollywood special effects studio cannot do it justice & our Lord knows they have tried!

Conclusion

✝ When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

With the death of John the Baptist and the oppression of each the Romans and the Pharisee's coupled with the corruption of the Herodians the people were desperate to break free of their Physical bonds.

So, Jesus now goes away from this crowd sensing their lack of patience & understanding that He had come first as Messiah Christ for those of us willing to be free of our Spiritual chains of Sinful shame.