



# Multiplication of Food

**“And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick” (Matthew 14:14).**

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Compassion for people was the driving force behind Jesus ministry and miracles. Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:10-17 and John 6:1-13 all provide account of the same miracle where the compassion of Jesus shone forth.

- 1) In response to the news of the murder of John the Baptist, Jesus instructed the disciples to come apart into a desert place for a private rest. The needs of the multitude did not allow them to understand the need for Jesus and His disciples to have rest, so they ran after Him; and compassion moved Jesus to minister to them. (Matthew 14:13-14; Mark 6:31-34; Luke 9:10-11; John 6:1-4).
- 2) By evening, the disciples noticing that the multitude had nothing to eat, requested Jesus to send them away to buy food (Matthew 14:15; Mark 6:35-36; Luke 9:12). Their request reflected natural / logical thinking aimed at solving the problem; but Jesus had a different a different solution in mind. When we come to Jesus, we must learn not to impose our solutions, nor allow our natural logical thinking to interfere with the higher and better thoughts of God. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8-9).
- 3) In response, Jesus told them “They need not depart; give ye them to eat”. They pointed out to Jesus that they only had five loaves and two fishes which was insufficient for the multitudes except they had to go and buy two hundred penny worth of supplies (Matthew 14:16-17; Mark 6:37-38; Luke 9:13).
- 4) John’s account (6:5-9) included interesting dialogues between Jesus, Philip and Andrew that throws more insight into what transpired here. Jesus knowing what He would do, had asked Philip “Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”; and Philip, in his re-

**“And they did all eat, and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes” (Mark 6:42-43).**

sponse, had estimated that two hundred pennyworth of bread would not be sufficient for each person to take a little. At that point, Andrew said “There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?”

- 5) They all thought that their supply was insufficient, but a little is more than enough when surrendered to Jesus, who told them “Bring them hither to me” (Matthew 14:18).
- 6) Jesus commanded them (a crowd of over 5,000 men, beside women and children) to sit down in groups of hundreds and fifties - a salient reminder that orderliness is important to God. He blessed the five loaves and two fishes, brake them and gave to the disciples, who in turn gave to the people (Matthew 14:19,21; Mark 6:39-41; Luke 9:14-16; John 6:10-11).
- 7) Philip had earlier predicted that two hundred pennyworth of bread would not be sufficient for every one to have “a little”, but after Jesus’ prayer, the multitudes all ate to their satisfaction, and twelve baskets full of fragments of bread and fishes were gathered (Matthew 14:20-21; Mark 6:42-44; Luke 9:17; John 6:12-13).
- 8) The gathering of the fragments was commanded by Jesus so that nothing should be wasted (John 6:12-13). God can provide more than what we need but does not want us to waste anything.

This miracle teaches us that God understands our needs and will supply them abundantly as we trust in Him. When the abundant supply comes, we must discipline ourselves not to waste anything.