

**I. THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND**

- A. At the beginning of the Third Galilean Tour Jesus sends out His twelve disciples to preach & heal the sick.**
- 1. Remember that a "Disciple" is one who learns. Jesus is training them.**
    - a. Around the same time, too, Jesus heard about the death of John the B. and He & His disciples went to a desert place to be alone.
    - b. No doubt, the death of John made Him think more about His own death; and now He needed to prepare Himself and His disciples for what lay ahead.
  - 2. A great crowd followed Him b/c they had seen His miracles. It was diff. for Him to find a quiet place.**
    - a. Jesus spent all day teaching them and healing the sick.
    - b. But soon it got late, and the disciples started to worry. Where will the people eat supper? "Jesus, send them away to buy food." Jesus' answer was a surprise: "You feed them!"
    - c. But surely that was impossible. There were too many of them, 5,000 men, plus women & children.
- B. How could they find enough food to feed so many? Just think if only half of the 5,000 men brought a wife and one child that would be 10,000 people!**
- 1. So Jesus asked, "How much food do you have? The answer was five barley loaves and two fishes.**
    - a. There was one little boy who had his own lunch with him. Could you feed 10,000 people with that?
    - b. But Jesus said, "Make the men sit down in groups of fifty." So all over the hillside were little groups of 50 men with women and children. "Tell them we are going to eat together."
    - c. And Jesus took the food and gave thanks and gave it to the disciples to pass around to the people.
  - 2. Amazingly, the Bible tells us, without saying how, that everyone was able to have enough to eat. Jesus "multiplied" the bread and fishes.**
    - a. Not only that, but everyone was full. Nobody went hungry, not even a little. But where did the food come from? From the power of Jesus!
    - b. Moreover, after everyone had finished eating Jesus sent His disciples to gather the leftovers. Leftovers from five loaves and two fishes? Yes, there were twelve baskets full of leftovers!
- C. The people did not understand *how* He did this but they knew that it was a miracle. Their reaction was amazement, "This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world" (John 6:14; Deut. 18:15,18).**
- 1. The people were so excited by a wonder-working prophet who could multiply bread that they wanted Jesus to be their king, their earthly king.**
    - a. With this man as king, they would never go hungry again, and Jesus could heal all their sick.
    - b. Think of the army they could have with Jesus as King: an army with no fear of starving, an army where anyone injured could be healed,. Surely that is the kind of King and army to get rid of the nasty Romans.
    - c. And if Jesus will not be King, we will make Him our King whether He wants to or not.
  - 2. But the people have understood nothing. Jesus will not be and cannot be an earthly king.**
    - a. Did they not remember John the B? He preached about a spiritual Kingdom and the need to repent.
    - b. Did they not remember the Sermon on the Mt? Jesus preached about spiritual citizens of a spiritual kingdom who are poor in spirit, meek, etc.
    - c. And if Jesus is an earthly king, where is suffering, where is the death of the cross? No, the way of an earthly kingdom means no salvation from sin. Full bellies, healthy bodies but eternal hellfire!

**II. AFTER THE FEEDING ... WALKING ON WATER ... I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE**

- A. Jesus took action to prevent Himself being made a king. He departed into a mountain alone; He sent away His disciples into a boat; and He sent the crowds away disappointed. *Then He went to pray for strength.***
- 1. In the middle of the night, Jesus looked across the Sea of Galilee and saw the little boat of His disciples.**
    - a. The disciples had made very little progress because they were rowing against strong winds.
    - b. Jesus determined to come to them but He had no boat. *So He walked to them on the water.*
    - c. Imagine the shock of the disciples when they saw a lone figure walking towards them. "It is a spirit," they cried. It is a ghost! (Matt. 14:26). But Jesus said, "Be of good cheer. It is I. Be not afraid" (v. 27).
  - 2. When Peter heard Jesus' voice he asked for permission to come with Jesus on to the water.**
    - a. Peter climbed out of the boat and started walking on the water toward Jesus. Jesus gave him power.
    - b. All was well when Peter looked at Jesus, but then he looked down at the stormy sea, saw the waves and began to be afraid. His faith in Jesus began to fail, Peter began to sink and was in danger of drowning.
    - c. Frightened, Peter called out to Jesus: "Lord, save me!" (Matt. 14:30). Immediately, Jesus stretched out His hand and rescued Peter. "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" (Matt. 14:31).
    - d. The disciples welcomed Peter and Jesus into the boat and immediately they were at the shore (John 6:21).

**B. The next day the crowds were looking for Jesus. They gathered in the synagogue in Capernaum, having followed him around the lake. They were puzzled at how Jesus got there before them since there was only one boat. But Jesus did not explain that to them. *Instead, He explained that He is the Bread of Life.***

**1. Jesus knew that these people were unbelievers. They liked the miracles, they liked free food, but they did not believe in Jesus.**

- a. These people were hungry for bread, but they were not hungry for the forgiveness of sins.
- b. The reason for the miracle of the Feeding of the 5,000 was to show the people that He has power to feed His people's souls with spiritual, eternal life.
- c. Just as ordinary bread feeds our bodies so Jesus feeds our souls. He is, He says, the Bread of Life.

**2. Jesus said to the Jews, I am the Bread of Life, which came down from Heaven, and in order to live you have to eat my flesh and drink my blood.**

- a. But the Jews were offended by this. "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?" (John 6:42). And how can He give us His flesh to eat and His blood to drink? (John 6:52).
- b. The Jews took Him too literally. They thought that He was talking about something shocking, eating flesh and drinking blood. But Jesus explained that eating His flesh & drinking His blood means coming to Jesus and believing in Jesus. "I am the Bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).
- c. But the Jews would not believe in Him, and they could see that Jesus was not the kind of king they wanted. And they all left Him. And Jesus turned to His disciples and asked them, "Will ye also go away?" (John 6:67). But Peter speaks up: "Lord, to whom shall we go. Thou hast the words of eternal life."

### **III. THE SYRO-PHOENICIAN WOMAN'S DAUGHTER IS HEALED**

**A. After this, Jesus left Galilee, and would not return. His three Galilean Tours were over, and most people did not believe. He went to the area of Syro-Phoenicia, an area NW of Israel, the area where Queen Jezebel had come from in the Old Testament.**

**1. In Syro-Phoenicia a woman discovered that Jesus was in the house and she came seeking mercy.**

- a. This woman was not a Jew. She was a pagan, a heathen, a worshipper of false gods, but she knew somehow that Jesus was the Jewish Messiah and she believed in Him. She calls Him Son of David!
- b. She came because she had a very sick daughter who was "grievously vexed with a devil" (Matt. 15:22). Her little daughter was under the control of a devil. What misery!
- c. But the question is: will Jesus heal her, will she receive mercy from Jesus?

**2. At first, it seemed that Jesus was not going to help her. For a while Jesus ignored her. In fact, His answer to her seems to be cruel and unloving.**

- a. Here was a woman on the ground, begging, over and over again, for help and Jesus acted as if He heard nothing! But she kept begging and crying.
- b. Soon, the disciples begin to complain about her. "Send her away for she crieth after us" (Matt. 15:23).
- c. Finally Jesus speaks: "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." That's no! No, I won't help you. I came to save the Jews, not you. You are a Gentile.

**B. The woman might have given up at this point. Maybe you would have. But Jesus has more to say to her. "It is not meet to take the children's bread and to cast it to dogs" (Matt. 15:26).**

**1. The dogs here are not cute puppy dogs but dirty stray mongrel dogs which roam the streets.**

- a. Dogs was a name for Gentiles. The non-Jews who did not worship the true God were dogs. This Syro-Phoenician woman was dog and her daughter was a dog.
- b. And it is not right, says Jesus, to take the food that belongs to the children and give it to dogs.
- c. What would you have done if Jesus had spoken to do you that way? Would you have gone home angry and in a sulk?

**2. The woman accepts what Jesus says and it incredibly humble in her answer.**

- a. "Truth, Lord" (Matt. 15:27). You are right, as Gentiles we are dogs. We deserve nothing.
- b. But, she went on, "yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table" (v. 27). Lord, she says, I don't expect to be able to sit at the table and eat the bread; all I ask for is a crumb for me and my daughter.
- c. Jesus gives her what she asks for: "O woman, great is thy faith: be in unto thee even as thou wilt" (v. 28). What faith this woman had, compared to the wicked unbelief of many of the Jews!
- d. And the wonderful thing is, this woman, by nature a dog, became a *daughter and did sit at the Master's table. She's in heaven with all those who believe in Jesus.*