

Luke 9:10 - 11 (NASB) (Companion account: John 6:1-14)

¹⁰When the apostles returned, they gave an account to Him of all that they had done. Taking them with Him, He withdrew by Himself to a city called Bethsaida.

¹¹But the crowds were aware of this and followed Him; and welcoming them, He began speaking to them about the kingdom of God and curing those who had need of healing.

- *This is the only miracle of Jesus related in all the four gospels (compare Matt. 14:13; Mk. 6:30; Jn. 6:1).*

1. This was simply a miracle in which Jesus created food for this vast multitude
2. Some regard it as a miracle which turned selfish, suspicious folk into generous people, a miracle of Christ's changing determined self interest into a willingness to share. (*WRONG*)

- *Matthew wrote that they had gone by boat, and the crowds went on foot and met Jesus when he landed (Matthew 14:13-14).*
- *Jesus started with what they had, a few loaves and fishes that were generously donated by a lad found by Andrew (John 6:8-9). Did Andrew know the boy? Or did the boy offer his little lunch without being asked? Before we ask God to do the impossible, let's start with the possible and give Him what we have. And while we are at it, let's give thanks for parents who give their sons something to give to Jesus.*

Luke 9:12 - 14 (NASB)

¹²Now the day was ending, and the twelve came and said to Him, "Send the crowd away, that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside and find lodging and get something to eat; for here we are in a desolate place."

¹³But He said to them, "You give them *something* to eat!" And they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless perhaps we go and buy food for all these people."

¹⁴(For there were about five thousand men.) And He said to His disciples, "Have them sit down *to eat* in groups of about fifty each."

Andrew the missionary: (3 accounts)

1. *John 6:8-9* ⁸One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said* to Him, ⁹"There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?"
2. *John 1:41 - 42 (NASB)* ⁴¹He found* first his own brother Simon and said* to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ). ⁴²He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).
3. *Andrew Brought Greeks To Jesus – John 12:20-22*

Philip the mathematician:

John 6:5 - 7 (NASB)

⁵Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said* to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?"

⁶This He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do. ⁷Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little."

John 6:7

6:7 two hundred pennyworth. *The Greek word for "penny" is denarius. One denarius was a day's wage for an unskilled laborer (Matthew 20:2), so that two hundred denarii would represent about seven months' wages.*

A denarius (or "penny") was what an agricultural worker typically was paid for one day's labor (Mt. 20:2). If we assume U.S. minimum wage for 10 hours, that would be \$72.50 currently.

Compare this with the feeding of the 5,000 men (plus women and children), where the disciples noted that 200 pennyworth (denarii) (\$14,500) was insufficient to feed the group (Mk. 6:37; Jn. 6:7).

- *When you combine all four accounts of this miracle, you find that Jesus first asked Philip where they could buy enough bread to feed such a great crowd. (Maybe 10,000+ people there.)*
- *He was only testing Philip, "for He Himself knew what He was intending to do" (John 6:6, NASB). In the crisis hours of life, when your resources are low and your responsibilities are great, it is good to remember that God already has the problem solved.*

Luke 9:15 - 17 (NASB)

¹⁵They did so, and had them all sit down.

¹⁶Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them, and broke *them*, and kept giving *them* to the disciples to set before the people.

¹⁷And they all ate and were satisfied; and the broken pieces which they had left over were picked up, twelve baskets *full*.

Lessons learned:

#1- Jesus was concerned that men were hungry. It would be most interesting to work out how much time Jesus spent, not talking, but easing men's pain and satisfying their hunger. He still needs the service of men's hands. The mother who has spent a lifetime cooking meals for a hungry family; the nurse, the doctor, the friend, relation or parent, who has sacrificed life and time to ease another's pain; the social reformer who has burned himself out to seek better conditions for men and women--they have all preached far more effective sermons than the eloquent orator.

#2 - This miracle was more than an act of mercy for hungry people, though that was important. It was also a sign of our Lord's messiahship and an illustration of God's gracious provision for man's salvation.

#3 – It teaches us to have compassion, to look on problems as opportunities for God to work, and to give Him all that we have and trust Him to meet the needs.

Lessons NOT learned:

The next day, Jesus preached a sermon on “the bread of life” and urged the people to receive Him just as they had received the bread (John 6:22-59). But the people were more interested in their stomachs than their souls, and completely missed the spiritual impact of the miracle. Their desire was to make Jesus King so He could give them bread for the rest of their lives! (John 6:14-15)

Monday Morning Moment:
you to seeing God’s power.
need.

a. Don’t let your lack of resources blind
b. Use the resources you have at your disposal; let God stretch them to meet the need.

Philippians 4:19 (KJV) ¹⁹But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus

John 6:1 - 14 (NASB)

¹After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias).

²A large crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs which He was performing on those who were sick.

³Then Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat down with His disciples.

⁴Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near.

⁵Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said* to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?”

⁶This He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.

⁷Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little.”

⁸One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said* to Him,

⁹“There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?”

¹⁰Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted.

¹²When they were filled, He said* to His disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost.”

¹³So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”