

“The Miracles of Jesus 4”

Part 4

March 30, 2025

Scripture Text: John 6:9-15 ESV **9** “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” **10** Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now, there was a lot of grass in the place. So, the men sat down, about five thousand in number. **11** Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also, the fish, as much as they wanted.

12 And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” **13** So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. **14** When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!” **15** Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

This month, we have been exploring the miracles of Jesus as described in the Gospel of John. Each miracle that Jesus performed was a demonstration of His glory over the natural elements of life. **The first miracle** was Jesus' transformation of *water into wine* at a wedding feast. **The second miracle** of Jesus was His spoken word to a nobleman concerning a son who was *dying miles away*. **The third miracle** that Jesus performed was healing a man who was *paralyzed for 38 years*, lying by a pool in Bethesda. He abolished his disability by His words... “*Take up your bed and walk!*”

Today, we are examining the fourth miracle of Jesus, as recorded in the Gospel of John.

The popularity of Jesus was growing as people shared their experiences of what they had witnessed and heard about Him.

Whenever Jesus arrived in an area, people’s daily routines were disrupted, and His fame grew as a result of the miracles He performed. They gathered to see and hear Him because of His miracles among the people, while others gathered to see if He was the Messiah. And still, others may have gathered because He had broken the law by healing on the Sabbath. Thousands had come from near and far as a caravan to follow Jesus.

Jesus observed the multitude and asked Philip, “Where shall we buy bread to feed this number of people?” Jesus knew that the disciples lacked the money and the resources to feed the multitude. Simon Peter’s brother, Andrew, discloses in **verse 9**: “*There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?*”

If we trust and surrender what we have to the Lord, there will be more blessings to others and bring glory to Him! This young boy had no idea of the impact he would have had when he shared his two fish and five loaves of bread. The young boy witnessed what happens when a person with few resources places their trust in God.

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

The scriptures don't reveal if they sat in clusters of 500s or less. They sat and waited, with expectation, to be served. They probably didn't have any idea what was on the menu. Many who followed may have been caught up in the excitement of the moment, and they did not bring food to stay the entire time. Now, they were hungry!

VERSE 11 *Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also, the fish, as much as they wanted.*

It is difficult to imagine those five loaves and two fish feeding five thousand men, no matter how you slice and dice it! It doesn't add up! This miracle teaches us, as the saying goes, **“Little is much when God is in it!”** The scriptures abound with examples of how God can magnify even the simplest of offerings when they are given in faith. Also, the example of the widow's mite who gave all that she had.

These stories teach us that God sees your sacrifice and looks through the crowd to notice you. When your giving seems insignificant compared to others, you don't need to worry. God sees your heart and knows your sacrifice!

Sacrifice is uncomfortable, and sacrifice drives out comfort because that's how sacrifice works. Sacrificial giving is found throughout the scriptures. God uses sacrifices to shape the giver's heart and advance His Kingdom.

VERSE 12 *And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.”*

Whenever God blesses you from His storehouse, it's more than enough, and you'll have enough to share with others, so nothing is lost! Sometimes, God will bless you, and you will see if you are a good steward who places value on eternal things. Every soul has excellent value in the eyes of God.

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

This lesson teaches us that God doesn't need us to accomplish His mission of reaching others. Still, He invites us to participate in and experience the joy of overcoming the limitations that we may have. The people left with their stomachs full, and their lives filled with hope for the future. Jesus takes that which is insufficient and uses it to

accomplish His purpose. Our God will take whatever is given in faith and multiply its impact in unbelievable ways for His glory.

VERSE 14 *When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”*

After the feeding of the multitude, many were convinced that He was the chosen one, and they wanted to grab Him to hail Him their King. Who would not want to hail Him their King when He had met all the needs of the people? This was not God’s plan for their eternal salvation. People are fickle; as soon as He does not meet their idea of their King, they want Him gone.

Isaiah 53:3 NKJV *He is despised and rejected of men; A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.*

VERSE 15 *Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.*

APPLICATIONS:

Our lack is an opportunity for the Lord to be glorified!

When we fully trust and obey the Lord, the little we have is magnified in His hands.