

## **THE FIRST MULTIPLICATION** (Mt. 14:15-23)

When evening came, the disciples came to Him and said, this is a remote and barren place, and the day is now over; send the throngs away into the villages to buy food for themselves. **Jesus said they do not need to go away; you give them something to eat.** They said to Him, We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish. He said, Bring them here to Me. Then He ordered the crowds to recline on the grass; and He took the five loaves and the two fish, and, looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and blessed and **broke the loaves and handed the pieces to the disciples and the disciples gave them to the people.** And they all ate and were satisfied. **And they picked up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over.** And those who ate were about 5,000 men, not including women and children. Then He directed the disciples to get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent away the crowds. **And after He had dismissed the multitudes, He went up into the hills by Himself to pray.** When it was evening, He was still there alone.

Send the throngs away into the villages to buy food for themselves, said the disciples. Jesus however had another plan. He answered them; you give them something to eat. They answered, we have nothing here **but** five loaves of bread and two fish. Bring them to me, He said. A need much greater than the resource cannot be met by the human standard, but in the hands of the Master, no resource is too small for Him to perform a miracle. The story registered in II Kings of a widow whose husband had died leaving her without means to pay the debts, had only a jar of oil. She was told to get empty vessels, lots of empty vessels to be able to increase the resource to pay for the debts and live on the rest. She was told to shut the door upon her and her sons after collected the vessels and the miracle would come. My and your life must be empty of all that is contrary to faith and our door must be closed to the world and all that it offers, to receive the miracle and to pass it on. Give the hungry something to eat. Jesus asked Peter the question that He asks all of us sometimes, and that is, "Do you love me"? Followed by the command "Feed my sheep", share my love with the lost world and with my church. Does your love for Christ compel you to feed the hungry?

In this first multiplication, I observed several things I would like to share with you. Some came from the Restore Vision, but not all.

On the number five loaves, the number five is symbolic of the grace of God.

The two fish two is the space of two thousand year time God gave to the gentile nations for their salvation under His grace.

The broken bread is the broken body of Christ. When He handed the pieces of bread to the disciples to be distributed, that was “Go into the world and preach the gospel”.

The twelve baskets with the broken bread pieces, is the broken body of Christ for the nation of Israel.

And those who ate were about 5,000 men. That’s God’s grace to all men.

He went up into the hills by Himself to pray. That speaks of His ascension to heaven.

But the boat was by this time out on the sea.....beaten and tossed by the waves for the wind was against them. The boat here is the nation of Israel and the sea is the gentile nations, coming against her.

And in the fourth watch (between 3:00-6:00 a.m.) These three hours are three years of Jesus’ ministry, when Israel failed to recognize Him as their Messiah. They were veiled to recognize Him walking on the sea, even when He spoke to them.

And Peter answered Him, Lord, **if** it is You, command me to come to You on the water. He said, Come! So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water, and he came toward Jesus. But when he perceived and felt the strong wind, he was frightened, and as he began to sink, he cried out, Lord save me. Instantly Jesus reached out His hand and caught and held him, saying to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt? Peter feeling the strength of the wind here represents the nation of Israel pressured by the nations around her, lonely without help, she will cry, Lord save me.

When they got into the boat, the wind ceased and those in the boat knelt and worshiped Him saying, **truly You are the Son of God!** This is the time when Israel will finally recognize Jesus and worship Him at His second coming to Israel to save her. **And they shall look upon Me Whom they have pierce, and they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him as one who is in bitterness for his firstborn.( Zechariah 12:10b).**

THINK ABOUT IT!

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