

Title: Food for the Hungrey

Text: *Matthew* 14:15-21

I would like you to turn to Matthew chapter 14. We will also be reading from chapter 15 and 16 on two accounts involving "FOOD FOR THE HUNGREY."

If you would follow along in your Bibles, I would like to begin reading at Vs 15.....

(Read 14:15-21; 15:32-39; 16:6-12)

Would you join with me for a moment of prayer

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We have two accounts. They are not the same. Two accounts of two miracelous events in the life of our Lord. On both of these occassions He provided bread to a multitude of people. In the first case to 5 thousan And in the second case to 4 thousand. And obviously he didn't have much to begin with....FOOD FOR THE HUNGREY...

Jesus was concerned about the multitudes. And I would like to share just a few important facts about these two stories. And to conclude what I believe is the Bibles' answer, which we have not read, the Bibles' answer to this whole thing about the Bread being given to the multitudes.

Jesus taught in one of the Gospels which we have not read that the bread meant something ~~entirely~~ different then what you might be thinking right now. It is his interpretation and not mine. And we shall look at it in a few moments.

(1) First of all, I would like you to notice that the multitudes needed bread. If there is one thing that is taught here, it is taught that Jesus was concerned about the multitudes that need bread. They needed physical ~~bread~~ <sup>Food</sup> bread. But they needed spiritual ~~bread~~ <sup>Food</sup> bread also. But, the physical ~~bread~~ <sup>Food</sup> problem ~~that~~ was facing them. They were in the dessert. They didn't have anything to give the people to ~~en~~ eat. <sup>And</sup> there are several things that stand out in my mind.

(1)

I notice there condition. They are about ready to faint. They had been with Jesus for three days. They have had nothing to eat. And they are faced with a tremendous problem.

In ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> case of ~~the 5 thousand~~ there are, also, woman and children. Possible, as one commentator suggest, bringing the number up to 15 thousand people. And the same is true about the 4 thousand. When you add the woman and children the number might increase to around 12 thousand or more. Women, children, and men who have had nothing to eat all day or maybe longer

(2)

I am also aware that Jesus said "I want to give them something to eat." And it was because he had compassion on the multitudes. ~~That is clear from chapter 15 verse 32.~~ He said "I have compassion on them. And I will not send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way."

It was the desire of Jesus to give people <sup>Feed</sup> bread. My friend your need maybe spiritual <sup>Feed</sup> bread. <sup>And</sup>, Jesus desires to give it to you because he has compassion on the multitudes. He loved people. He couldn't look at a crowd of 15 thousand or 12 thousand people and not want to feed them when they had not eaten all day.

It is too bad that many of us who are christians do not even see the physical needs of others. James said "what kind of religion is it when a man comes to you and needs to be feed, he needs something for his stomach, and you say, 'be warmed and felled, go your way, God bless you. And you don't give him anything to eat.'" He said, "that is faith without works." And it isn't what God wants. Christians ought to be concerned about the physical needs of people.

Our missionaries go to mission fields and they give them physical needs. But, there prime purpose is to present to them Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. And often times they have to feed their starving bodies and heal their sickness before they can listen to their need of Jesus. Jesus had compassion on ~~the~~ multitudes. He loved people and he wanted to give them bread. "I want to give them bread. I want to give them something to eat." ~~That is why we are having a Day of Fasting, etc~~

(2) But there is something else I notice in this story. And that was the manner in which this bread was obtained.

To me, this is one of the most fascinating parts of this whole account. The account of feeding the 5 thousand is recorded in all four gospels. The account of feeding the 4 thousand is found only in two gospels. But the account of the feeding of the 5 thousand because it is found in all four Gospels <sup>AND IT</sup> is filled with much details as to how the bread was obtained. And let me share some of this with you.

(1) First of all, I notice that the disciples were involved. And according to the Bible, the Disciples wanted to send the multitudes away. They felt that they couldn't be feed and they should be sent away.

Often times we are like that. We see people in need whether physical or spiritual and we want to send them away. We can't deal with the problem. *Don't interrupt my comfortable life*

(2) And then, I notice someone else who was involved. Would you turn, please, to the Gospel of John chapter 6. The Gospel of John chapter 6. Here we learn some fascinating details about the feeding of the 5 thousand. Let's begin at Verse 2...

-(Read John 6:2-7a)

A denarii represented a days wages for a common <sup>worker</sup> laborer. In other words, 200 days wages, 2/3 of a year's salary, if we use all of that to buy bread, it still would not be enough to feed a crowd this size. <sup>that is what Philip was saying</sup> But You see, Philip was being tested by God. What you are asking, Jesus, is too great. And Philip couldn't take the challenge.

I am reminded of something interesting about Philip. Would you turn back to John chapter 1. Phillip is <sup>very interesting</sup> a tremendous person. John chapter 1 and look at verses 43 to 46 when Jesus was calling his disciples..

(Read John 1:43-46)

Now, the same man who brought his brother Nathanael to Jesus, the same man who said to Nathanael, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also in the Prophets wrote ", the same man who said to Nathanael, "and see..."

"Come and see"..This same man was tested by Jesus when he was ask: "Philip where are we going to get bread." And he said, "Lord, if we had 2/3 of a years wages, we still wouldn't be able to buy bread for this multitude." Just <sup>send</sup> ~~stuff~~ them away. And he joined in with the other disciples. Send the multitudes away that they may find ~~food~~ food. Philip was tested.

Now, turn to chapter 14 to notice a third thing about Philip. John chapter 14. After Jesus had just announced that He would come again. That he was going to leave the disciples, but he was going to prepare a place for them. <sup>and</sup> But he would come again and receive them unto himself.

He had just said to Thomas: "I am the way, the truth, and the life; and no one comes to the Father, but through me."

Now, notice Vs 8...."Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."

Give us one view of God the Father and we will be happy. And Jesus said to him, Vs 9 "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father."

Philip have I been so long with you and yet you have not come to know me I am God.....You see, Philip was always being tested. Philip's faith was always a little weak. He is like many of us. He believed and yet he felt like saying with the Centurian: "Lord, help my unbelief....."

<sup>Philip</sup> He is the one who said to Nathanael: "I am sure we found the Messiah. Come and see Him." And yet, when Jesus feed the 5 thousand Philipp couldn't believe that he could provide bread. Jesus tested him. And here on this occassion Philip said: show us the Father and we will be satisfied." But Jesus said: "if you have seen me, Philip, you have seen the Father. I and the Father are one. I am God, Philipp. Trust me and believe me. Know who I am. <sup>and Philips faith was weak</sup>

(3 ) But, there was someone else involved. Turn back to John 6. The disciples as a group wanted to send the multitudes away. Philipp was tested and he didn't know how they were going to pay for the bread. But, notice Andrew. John chapter 6 verse 8 to 9....

(Read Vs 8 and 9)

Andrew went ~~one~~ step further than Philipp. Andrew at least found some food. And I like that.

You know, it is interesting in Vs 8 that we have a Biblical definition of who Andrew is. And I believe there is a reason. It says "Andrew, Simon Peter's brother." Why does it say that? There wasn't any other Andrew among the disciples. Why Simon Peter's brother?

I think right at that point he is reminding you of something that happened back in John Chapter 1. ~~Turn back to John chapter 1 and notice~~ Vs 40...<sup>we need</sup> "One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He found first his own brother Simon, and said to him We have found the Messiah which translated means Christ." And he brought Him to Jesus." Tremendous

Andrew brought his brother to Jesus. And in John 6 we ~~are reminded~~ <sup>read</sup> that ~~Andrew brought his brother to Jesus and now he is bringing the~~ <sup>is the one who</sup> ~~little boy~~ <sup>this</sup> to Jesus. <sup>you know</sup> Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had a congregation of people who had this as the characteristic of their life. That they brought people to Jesus. Wouldn't that be wonderful

And Philipp on one occasion when he was faced with some Greek folks who wanted to see Jesus got Andrew to do the work. And Andrew introduced them to Jess.

Andrew knew how to take people to Jesus. ~~And we need to know.~~ And yet, there was still an element of doubt in Andrew's mind. Because he said: "Well, here is a lunch, but what is it amongst so many?"

(4) And then there was this child. This young boy with his lunch of five barley loaves and two fish. That wasn't very much. But, notice.... He gave all he had to Jesus. The thrilling thing that I see in this story is that this little boy gave all he had to Jesus.

Here is the manner in which the bread was obtained. The disciples said, "Send the multitudes away. We can't do this." Philip said: "Lord, it would take 2/3 of a years wages to be able to pay for bread to feed this multitude." Andrew, he brought a little boy and yet he said about the

lunch: "What are these for so many people"?

But, the little boy...what was his attitude? He gave the lunch..

There is no ~~feelings~~ <sup>indication</sup> that he was against this. He didn't turn it down and want to keep that lunch for himself. HE GAVE HIS LUNCH TO JESUS....And to me, that is just fantastic.....The manner in which the bread was obtained.

*What are you going to give*

(3) Now, let's come back to Matthew chapter 14 and notice the miracle that takes place. And it is interesting to see this miracle from different perspectives.

(1) For example, notice the promise of Jesus. In Vs 16 Jesus said to them: "They do not need to go away; ~~but~~ give them something to eat."

The miracle begins with the promise of Christ. This multitude of 15 thousand people does not need to depart. Give them something to eat.

If you were one of those 12 disciples and you received that challenge, what would you have done? *A MORE Relevant question: what will we do with the challenge before this Wed. DAY OF FAITH*

They don't need to go away. I am going to feed them. And I see the miracle as He begins to take that little lunch and he provides bread for that entire multitude. He has them set down in small groups as one passage says. 15 thousand people in small groups. And the disciples begin to take bread to them. Can you imagine what is going on? I can just see Jesus breaking that bread. And then the growing excitement of the disciples as they begin to share that bread with the people. And the Bible says that the people were satisfied. And the disciples gathered 12 baskets of left-overs.

Some of us think the supply of God has run out long ago....Some of us think that the Bread of life is running dry. That there is no more there. Some of us as Christians get to the point that we forget that there is an unlimited supply of the Bread of life. And many christians fold up and dry up and wear out because they forget that the saviour is still breaking bread. And he never runs out... *He never runs out. He never runs out.*

*of your life*

~~There~~ <sup>there</sup> were 12 baskets left over. There were 7 baskets left over after feeding the 4 thousand. And the Bible says in Matthew 14:20 that "they all ate and were satisfied." No one went away hungry. And yet, there was some left over. It was a miracle.

(4) But, this brings me to the ~~whole conclusion~~ <sup>real message</sup> of this story. What was the message behind that bread? Was it simply physical food?... ~~Oh No~~  
~~IT WAS more than that~~

There was a two fold message according to Jesus.

(1) One, that was given to the disciples. (2) And another one to the whole multitude.

(1) Let us look at the message given to the disciples. That is found in Matthew 16. In Matthew 16:6-12 it is obvious that what the bread represents is: THE TEACHING OF THE PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES TO THEM. To the disciples personally. And what it represents is this: the bread that Christ gave indicates that Christ will supply their needs. And he wasn't speaking concerning that bread, but he was taking an illustration from that and taking about another kind: <sup>the</sup> LEVEN OF THE PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES.

Disciples, you had better have my kind and not their kind...And my kind doesn't even ~~we~~ come close to their kind.

(2) And when you know this and then you come to John chapter 6, it really begins to come together. Follow this, now, very carefully....Turn to John chapter 6.....Here we find the real meaning and message of that bread according to Jesus Christ. <sup>which will lead us into the meaning of Communion</sup> John chapter 6 beginning at Vs 24...

(Read 6:24-33)

Notice, Jesus is saying that the manna that came in the wilderness is HE....It is a symbol of HE who gives life to the world. The bread which Jesus broke to the multitudes is HE WHO GIVES LIFE TO THE WORLD.

Vs 34...."They said therefore to him..."No mistake here. They knew what <sup>Jesus</sup> he said..."Lord, evermore give us this bread".....Lord, we want this bread...

Vs 35...."Jesus said to them, " I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE."

How often I have heard that phrase, quoted. And I have often wondered how many people remember the context in which it came.

"I am the bread of life. Temendous..He that comes to me shall never hunger. He that believeth on me, shall never thirst." I am the bread of life. I am He that came down from heaven.

My friends; if you misst this in the tremendous miracle of the feeding of the 5 thousand <sup>and</sup> and the 4 thousand, you have mised the whole thing. *and we need to be involved in feeding hungry people*

The bread was physical bread, true.....But, the whole thing was an illustration and a symbol that God wants to give us the bread of life... Eternal life.... *Now knowing* And if you know that, *Come* then back up and illustrate the whole ~~rest of the story~~ *the story again*

Think for a moment what it means when Andrew brought the child? Think what it means for a moment when Jesus challenged the disciples? When he tested Philipp? When the child gave his lunch? Think about what the whole thing means?.....JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE.....And what he gives is eternal life. You shall live forever if you eat of this bread. *Communion*

Spiritual bread, Yes.. *But* and it is based on the illustration of this physically ~~bread~~ bread....

And just as Andrew brought that little child to Jesus, so we need to bring the Bread of life to people. Just as the disciples had only one conclusion: "send the multitudes away". So, many of us are like the song:

The Multitudes are omitted from the living bread because we will not tell them...We will not ~~tell~~ *bring* them....

*We/are/like/the/four/lepers/back/in/the/book/of/Kings/who/knew/there/was/food/for/starving/people/in/the/enemy/camp/*

The message of that bread is that the bread is spiritual bread, eternal life. And only Jesus can give it. Jesus will give you that bread because the bread is himself.

And if a person will believe on Jesus Christ he will have everlasting life.....

*any* I don't know what you think off when you see multitudes that are hungry. But, you know, when Jesus saw the multitudes, he not only saw their physical needs, he saw their spiritual hunger. He saw both.

And the Bible says when he saw the multitudes HE WAS MOVED WITH COMPASSION...The sight of multitudes of people who were physically and spiritually starving MOVED HIS GREAT HEART OF LOVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

I am reminded that Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5 that the Love of Christ controls us. The motivating factor behind the Christian who is an ambassador of God, who has the ministry of reconciliation committed unto him, IS THE LOVE OF CHRIST. WHEN ~~HE~~ HE SAW THE MULTITUDES HE WAS MOVED WITH COMPASSION...~~TO FEEL THEM.~~ *Are you moved to Help*

My friend, if you are here today and you have never partaken of the bread of life, then you shall always <sup>be</sup> hunger. You will spend an eternity without God. Jesus said in John 14: "I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no man cometh unto the Father except by me."

There are not many roads to heaven. There is only one. And that road is through Jesus Christ.....

And if you will, right now, accept that bread of life, If you will ask Christ to come into your heart, trusting Him as your only saviour.....You can spend eternity with God....You will have eternal life.....THE BREAD OF LIFE.....I hope you will receive Him, right now.....

Let us close with a word of prayer

*and Christian, I hope you will see the multitudes who need physical food. ~~and I hope you will respond with a generous offering this blessed night. Food for the Hungry - both physical and spiritual~~*  
*not only physical food, but more important they need spiritual food - as Communion says -*