

Episode: One-Hit Wonders No. 2

Narrator: A Regular Mother

Primary Scriptures: Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:1-14

Story Summary: The feeding of the five thousand begins with loaves and fishes from a boy

Location: A mountainside in Galilee

Time: Circa 28 AD

Suggested Memory Scriptures: John 6:9

Other than the resurrection, Jesus' feeding of the five thousand is the only miracle recorded in all four gospels. It is likely that only Matthew and John were there to see it.

Matthew says Jesus retired to a solitary place by boat after hearing of the death of John the Baptist. The crowd watched him and followed on foot. When he landed he saw the great crowd, had compassion and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples asked Jesus to send the crowd away so they could buy food in the villages of the area.; instead, Jesus told the disciples not to send them away, but to give them something to eat. They said they had only five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus blessed those and gave them to the disciples, who gave them to the people. After all had eaten their fill, the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces. Jesus fed five thousand men, besides the women and children.

Mark adds that Jesus began teaching when he landed; the disciples said it would take more than half a year's wages to buy food to feed the crowd; and Jesus told them to find out how many loaves and fishes were available. He also wrote that Jesus had the crowd sit down in groups of fifties and hundreds.

Luke says the event happened near Bethsaida in a remote place.

John writes that it happened on the far shore of the Sea of Galilee, and that the event happened on a mountainside. Jesus tested Philip by asking him where they should buy bread to feed the people. Philip was from Bethsaida. Andrew was also from Bethsaida, and brought forth a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish. Jesus had them gather the excess food so nothing would be wasted. John also wrote that the people began to call Jesus the Prophet who is to come, and they intended to use force to make Jesus the king.

The Gospels indicate that the miracle of Jesus walking on the water happened right after the feeding of the five thousand.

Among other things, these miracles would have shown Jesus to be the lord of food, gravity, and weather. In the future, the apostles would be able to look back and see clearly that, because Jesus had created those things, he had always been the lord over them.