

THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—February 26th, 2023

Mark 6:30-44

(ESV)

[30] The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. [31] And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. [32] And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. [33] Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. [34] When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. [35] And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. [36] Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." [37] But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" [38] And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." [39] Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. [40] So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. [41] And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. [42] And they all ate and were satisfied. [43] And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. [44] And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

INTRODUCTION

Psalm 37:25—*I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.*

Matthew 6:25–26—[25] *"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? [26] Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"*

God does not provide for us according to what we think we need; he provides for us according to what he knows we need.

The call to live for Christ is a call to believe that Christ himself will provide abundantly to our every need.

REST

Mark 10:45—*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Jesus wanted his disciples to not only be efficient in ministry, he wanted them to flourish.

We flourish in life when we find an appropriate balance between leisure and labor.

Psalm 103:14—*For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.*

TEACHING

Jesus chooses compassion over comfort.

Jesus from the beginning of the Gospel of Mark has prioritized the teaching of the gospel as the central part of his ministry.

“Central Baptist Church exists to proclaim the gospel for the hope of the lost, for the edification of the church, and for the glory of God in Christ.”

FOOD

If we ever feel inclined to think that God calls us to do the work of ministry because he needs us, we need to stop and reevaluate our understanding of who God is.

Psalm 50:9–12

*[9] I will not accept a bull from your house
or goats from your folds.*

*[10] For every beast of the forest is mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.*

*[11] I know all the birds of the hills,
and all that moves in the field is mine.*

*[12] “If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and its fullness are mine.*

Why does Jesus tell his disciples to feed the crowd?

(1) Jesus is testing their faith.

1 Peter 1:6–7—*[6] In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, [7] so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

(2) Jesus is teaching them to be like him.

Romans 8:29—*For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son...*

Ministry that is faith driven will always cause us to depend on the supernatural power of Christ.

What the crowds saw that day is that Jesus is able to supply their every need.

Romans 8:32—*He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*

Psalm 16:11

*[11] You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*