

MIRACLE FOOD

In Luke 9:10-17, Jesus and the disciples are in a desolate place with five thousand hungry men, plus women and children. The disciples had told Jesus to send the people away, but He replied, "You give them something to eat." But they had no more than five loaves and two fish.

JESUS PRAYS - Luke says Jesus "looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd." After feeding them the Word of God, Jesus gives them something to eat. The Jewish prayer says "blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of the world, who causes bread to come forth from the earth."

After five thousand amens, the people ate. And Jesus kept on giving. "Jesus kept producing bread and fish in His hands by the supernatural power of God," notes RK Hughes, "and the disciples always found His hands full when they came back with their own hands empty."

LEFT-OVERS - Luke says "they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces." They had more food than they started with, one basket for each disciple. God does not waste His grace. You will have your fill then pass it along to others.

"Is this fake news? Or do we need to re-interpret?" asks RC Sproul. "Some say it was an 'ethical miracle' as everyone shared their food. But the four gospel writers record this as an eyewitness miracle, something only God could do." More than a prophet, Jesus does the works of God.

GREAT TRUTHS - The account in John 6 points to many Old Testament teachings. The people clamored for more. More miracles, more bread. If Jesus was "the great prophet to come" then would he do more than Moses in Exodus 16? Jesus replies, "it was not Moses who gave manna from heaven in the wilderness, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven."

His great object lesson points to this: "the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said, "give us this bread always." Jesus declared, "I AM the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst, and I will raise Him up on the last day." Spiritual bread. Eternal life. Do you believe?

"The same power which at the beginning made the world out of nothing, that sent manna from heaven in the wilderness, that made five loaves and two fish feed five thousand men, is the Christ for whom nothing is impossible, and who is Himself the bread of life," explains JC Ryle.

BREAD OF LIFE - This miracle happened at Passover and foreshadows what Christ would do at a coming Passover, in giving His own life to give spiritual life all who receive Him as Lord and Savior. Luke has presented Jesus as Lord of nature in stilling storms, Lord of the supernatural in casting out demons, Lord of life in healing a woman, Lord of death in raising a young girl, and Lord of all providence, the bread of life, giving real spiritual life to the hungry helpless.

This echoes Genesis 22:14 where Abraham comes to know God as Jehovah-Jireh "the Lord will provide" even as Romans 4:17 says "God gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist." All by divine sufficiency, even as we see in actions of the divine Jesus Christ.

GOD'S POWER - "Jesus Christ wields the power of Jehovah God," says Hughes. "He is the provider. The Lord is our vast sufficiency for spiritual life, for salvation, for any need in our lives." Colossians 1:16 says "by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, all things were created through Him and for Him." Can He meet your needs today?

Can He meet the needs of your neighbor today? How do you respond to Jesus' command, "you give them something." Or are you of "little faith" like the disciples? What will you do? Do you believe Psalm 119:25, Romans 8:32, 2Corinthians 8:9 and 9:8? Do you trust Jesus?

THE PROVIDER - You are living in Luke 9 today. The multitude around you are helpless, hungry, poor sinners without power. The shepherd-teacher says, feed them. He provides the spiritual food with His power, unto salvation. You are His appointed servant. What will you do?

"The heart of man can never be satisfied with things of this world," notes Ryle. "It is always empty, always hungry, always thirsty, always dissatisfied, till it comes to Christ. It is only those who hear Christ's voice and follow Him and feed on Him by faith, who are 'filled'." What about you? Have you received the bread of life? Are you passing it along to others?