

**Prayer:**

**Slide # 1**

**Theme:** *Christ the King*

**Outline:**

Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)

Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.

Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)

Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)

Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)

Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.

Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.

**Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.**

Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.

Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.

Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.

Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.

Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

Jesus spent most of His time of ministry in and around the area of Capernaum in Galilee. The proof of Him being the Messiah was clearly evident, in His teaching, in His character, and in His sign miracles.

But with the death of John the Baptist (the prophesied forerunner) the religious leaders are clearly now shown to be hostile towards Him; the political leaders are antagonistic; the crowds are basically fickle; and His home town of Nazareth has now rejected Him twice.

Therefore, the last year of Christ’s ministry became more and more focused particularly upon the twelve apostles in preparing them for the crucifixion and beyond.

Still, the multitudes, fickle as they were – were still following Jesus in mass. As far as outward popularity this was the high point of Jesus’ ministry. And yet the crowds largely had selfish motives in following Christ. They were all about what Christ could do for them physically but had no real interest in what He could do for them spiritually. They generally thought on a physical/natural plane and not a spiritual one.

After John the Baptist was beheaded we saw in Matt. 14:13 that Jesus withdrew from the area of Capernaum so He could be alone. And we find in the cross references that in that context that the disciples who had returned from a preaching and teaching mission joined Him (cf. Mk. 6:30; Lk. 9:10). They went by boat to a deserted place – hoping to have a time of rest as seen in Mk. 6:31. The cross reference in Luke 9:10 indicates that this was in the vicinity of Bethsaida.

### **Slide # 2**

There is a geographical difficulty about the location of “Bethsaida” (cf. 6:32; Luke 9:10; John 12:21). The simplest solution seems to be that **Bethsaida Julias** (east of the Jordan) spread across to the western side of the Jordan and was called **“Bethsaida in Galilee”** (cf. John 12:21; 1:44; Mark 1:21, 29), a fishing suburb of Capernaum (cf. John 6:17). – *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*

### **Slide # 3**



In context it seems that Jesus and His disciples had gone by boat from the area around Capernaum to the area close to Bethsaida Julias to sort of get away from it all.

But when the crowds got wind of it they pursued them on foot coming around the top horn of the Sea of Galilee.

**Matthew 14:14–21 (NKJV)**

**14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.**

“When Jesus went out” is the sense that Jesus came out from a secluded spot to address a great multitude that was gathering.

The emphasis on Christ’s miracles consistently had sign-value regarding His identity and that is also true here as we find in the cross-reference of John 6:2 and 26. However, there were also other important lessons that Christ’s miracles brought out.

Here in Matthew we find the emphasis being not merely on the POWER of Christ but also on His character of **compassion**. And as we follow the narrative we find that in particular the feeding of the 5000 is intended to teach the disciples an important lesson which also has application for us as well.

It would be nice to think that these people were pursuing Jesus because of their appreciation of WHO Jesus was, but as seen in John 6 that was not the case. They were basically following Jesus for what they could get out of Him. And that never ends well. Their motives were essentially selfish and not spiritual.

**Slide # 4****John 6:2 (NKJV)**

**2** Then a great multitude followed Him, **because they saw His signs** which He performed on those who were diseased.

**John 6:26 (NKJV)**

**26** Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you **seek Me**, not because you saw the signs, but **because you ate of the loaves and were filled.**”

The word ***compassion*** (Gk. esplagchnisthe) is an emotional word and literally means to be moved in one’s bowels. This is where the ancients considered the emotions and feelings to reside. To be moved with compassion means to be moved with deep feelings of care and concern.

And consequently, Jesus healed their sick. The word sick means to be weak or without strength describing any number of physical maladies.

Here we see the heart of God as represented in Christ as being compassionate even towards those who are largely fickle towards Him. I am so glad God doesn't just start loving us when we start loving Him, because if that was the case it would never happen.

### **Slide # 5**

**1 John 4:19 (NKJV)**

**19** We love Him because **He first loved us.**

**Romans 5:8 (NKJV)**

**8** But God **demonstrates His own love** toward us, in that **while we were still sinners,** Christ died for us.

God always makes the first move – always! Depravity never initiates a move towards God.

In the garden after the fall – it wasn't Adam who went looking for God. He wasn't wandering around in the garden saying, ***“God where are you?”*** Rather it was God who came looking for Adam saying, ***“Adam, where are you?”*** (Gen. 3:9) Rom. 3:11 is very clear that left to ourselves, ***“There is none who seeks after God.”***

Praise God for His intervening mercy and compassion. Sadly, even after divine intervention many continue to spurn the mercy and grace of God.

But for us as believers it is wonderful to realize the very nature of our God is that He is a compassionate God. He cares about human frailty, human need, human hurting.

### **Slide # 6**

**Psalm 103:13–14 (NKJV)**

**13** As a father pities his children, So **the LORD pities** those who fear Him.

**14** For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

**1 Peter 5:7 (NKJV)**

**7** casting all your care upon Him, for **He cares for you.**

Evidently, the crowd continued to gather throughout the day as seen in John 6.

**15 When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food.”**

The term “**evening**” had two meanings for the Jews. It could refer to late afternoon from 3 pm to 6 or it could refer to the time just prior to sunset. Whatever the specific time frame it was getting late in the day – evidently getting very late for the people to make it all the way back home to the Capernaum region from this deserted place. If they waited much longer these people, now hungry, were going to be stranded. Hungry and stranded in a deserted area is not good for a great multitude of people. That could get ugly!

The solution as proposed by the disciples was that this crowd of people needed to be sent on their way ASAP so they can fend for themselves and hopefully find food to buy along the way in the various villages as they made their way back towards their homes.

It evidently never crossed their minds that there might be another option. In the cross-reference of John 6 we find a little more background as to what was happening here.

### **Slide # 7**

#### **John 6:5–6 (NKJV)**

**5** Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”

**6** But this He said **to test him**, for He Himself knew what He would do.

The whole issue of the need for food was being used by Jesus as a TEST for the disciples who have been learning from Jesus up close and personal now for about 2 years. Keep that in mind as we work our way through the narrative. Yes, there was sign value for the crowds, but the emphasis here is primarily on what Jesus is wanting to teach the disciples.

**Footnote:** This miracle of feeding the 5000 is the only miracle (other than the resurrection) that is addressed in all 4 gospels (cf. Matt. 14:15-21; Mk. 6:30-44; Lk. 9:10-17; Jn. 6:1-15). The gospels record about 35 specific pre-resurrection miracles performed by Christ, but **only the feeding of the 5000** is recorded in all four gospels. This shows the importance of it. There are some deep lessons that God wants us to see here. This miracle comes at a climactic turning point in the Lord’s ministry as seen in John 6. It started out as a high point of His popularity (in terms of a following), but by the time it was over MANY went away – so much so that Jesus said to the disciples “***Do you also want to go away?***” (Jn. 6:66-67).

**16 But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”**

The disciples in their human way of thinking said, “**Send the multitudes away**” but Jesus said to them, “**You give them something to eat.**”

Now what did Christ really expect them to do? Obviously, this was a human impossibility as the text goes on to show.

Christ intended to awaken in them an awareness that association with Him included provision for every need.

– **Wycliffe Bible Commentary**

Yes, this was an impossible command apart from Jesus! But when Jesus is present “**all things are possible**”. They were overlooking the Jesus factor – which looking back on the last couple of years they should not have done. In fact, they had just recently returned from a mission where because of Christ’s authority they were able to perform miracles (cf. Lk. 9:1). So they should have known at this point that when Jesus tells you to do something it is possible. Jesus Himself makes it possible!

**17 And they said to Him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.”**

They were thinking only about their own limited human resources.

John 6:7 says that Phillip, (who was from this area) calculated that it would take more than two hundred denarii to feed this crowd – which amounted to about 8 months’ worth of wages.

In our culture that would normally translate to about \$40,000 for this meal. That is a lot to come up with for one meal, on the fly, out in a desolate area.

Again, they were not really thinking beyond themselves and what they could do independently. They were not factoring in the Lord – which was the very thing they needed to do.

A big part of the lesson is that they needed to take what they had and give it to Jesus. **Little is much when God is in it!**

According to John 6:9 the loaves were barley bread which was made of common grain often used to feed livestock.

However, the poor people ate it and often mixed in wheat or more expensive grains to make it taste better and also make it go further. The point is what they had to offer was not much – and of virtually no significant value.

But this is often what God uses! One can be too “BIG” for God to use but not too small! In Judges 7 Gideon started out with an army of 32,000.

### **Slide # 8**

#### **Judges 7:2 (NKJV)**

**2** And the LORD said to Gideon, “The people who are with you are **too many** for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘**My own hand has saved me.**’

It is so human to take the glory for ourselves when it rightfully belongs to God alone. So, God often takes a very little (impossible) thing and works in such a way that He alone will get the glory. And He has to make it real obvious because otherwise people still try to take some credit.

God reduced Gideon’s army down to 22,000 but it was still too large. Finally, God reduced Gideon’s army down to only 300 men and said it would be with this little bitty force that He would defeat the enemy forces of 135,000 troops (cf. Judges 8:10).

God put Gideon in an “impossible” situation so that He alone might get the glory. And this is how God commonly works.

### **Slide # 9**

#### **1 Corinthians 1:26–29 (NKJV)**

**26** For you see your calling, brethren, that **not many wise** according to the flesh, **not many mighty**, **not many noble**, are called.

**27** But God has chosen the **foolish** things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the **weak** things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

**28** and the **base** things of the world and the things which are **despised** God has chosen, and the things **which are not** [*nothings*], to bring to nothing the things that are,

**29** **that no flesh should glory in His presence.**

The Chinese Christian leaders have a saying that says, “***Don’t touch the girls, don’t touch the gold, and don’t touch the glory***”. Amen!

The glory belongs to God ALONE! Don't be a glory robber – because if you try to do so you will lose your reward and in the end God will get all the glory anyway!

God often uses the small things to greater effectiveness than the things that are thought to be the greatest and most promising.

– **John MacArthur**

It is so easy to put our stock in human thinking and think if we had a few powerful and great people on our side we could really make an impact. If only a few famous actors got saved, if we could just have some well-known and famous athletes, if only the president would get saved. Now, I am all for them all getting saved – but even if they do get saved don't put them out front as a leading spokesman for Christianity for a LONG TIME.

Time after time high profile figures who make a profession of faith so often turn out to be an embarrassment to the cause of Christ. Either they prove not to be genuine, or they are pushed out in front in the limelight and they just are not ready to take a strong stand – they don't have the maturity for it and they stumble badly. We keep thinking: WOW God could really use a Goliath and instead God continues to use the small Davids of the world.

Most of the time whom God chooses to use is nobodies serving in the trenches. God works quietly behind the scenes mostly using those whom the world considers foolish, weak, base, despised, nothings – and He does it so that He might get all the glory. I mean the world does not champion giving much glory to the foolish, weak, base, despised, nothings.

But we do want to also note here that God does use people in the process of what He is doing. God is perfectly capable of doing whatever He wants to do without us and without any contribution from us, but He chooses to use us and our seemingly insignificant contributions. And in this way God brings glory to His own wisdom and power.

The glory is all God's but He uses people in the process. And that was the case here. Jesus didn't need to use the disciples, but He wanted to use them – meager as their contribution was.

God used a baby's cry to move the heart of Pharaoh's daughter and a shepherd's crook to work mighty miracles in Egypt. He used a boy and his slingshot to slay Goliath and rout the Philistine army. He used a poverty-stricken widow to sustain Elijah and a young girl to lead the



leprous Naaman to Elisha. He used Balaam's donkey to teach His truth and the jawbone of another donkey to slay a thousand men. He used a little child to teach the disciples humility, and He used one boy's lunch to feed twenty-five thousand people. – **John MacArthur**

The disciples were thinking about their own lack instead of the sufficiency found in Christ. They needed to learn "I can do all things through Christ" (Phil. 4:13).

So as they were thinking about their inadequacy Christ said,

**18 He said, "Bring them here to Me."**

What a great truth! Christ says to do the impossible, but obviously He needs to be included in on it for it to happen. He said, "**You give them something to eat**" (v. 16). But then He says, "**Bring them here to Me.**"

There is no contradiction. They are going to feed the people, but it is going to be through Christ as the source. Doing great things for God starts with bringing whatever we have to offer to Jesus! God takes the little we have to offer and does something great with it – showing it's really all His doing.

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead He commanded him, "**Lazarus come forth!**" And then we read....

### **Slide # 10**

**John 11:44 (NKJV)**

**44** And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "**Loose him, and let him go.**"

What is so interesting here is that Jesus did the impossible (raising the dead) but then He commanded the people to do what they could do, "**Loose him, and let him go.**"

And so it was with the disciples. Jesus commanded them to do the little thing they could do. They gathered what was available and then they brought it to Jesus to do what they couldn't do. The older I get the more I come back to this little verse in John 15:5 which I have sometimes referred to as my life's verse.

**Slide # 11****John 15:5 (NKJV)**

**5** “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing.**

Yes, the disciples were about to feed the 5000 – but not without Jesus. Without Him they could do nothing. What a lesson!

He was saying, in effect, “I knew that you did not have sufficient food or money to feed the people, and I knew that you had no way of getting it. I never expected you to feed them from your own resources or by your own power. In asking you to feed them I was asking you to trust Me. Without having to tell you, I was giving you the opportunity to bring to Me what little you had and trust Me for the rest.”

– **John MacArthur**

**19 Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.**

Once again we see the Lordship of Christ on display. He is always in charge because He is the Lord. He commanded the multitudes to sit on the grass. In Mark 6 we find they were seated in orderly groups of hundreds and fifties (Mk. 6:39-40).

**Slide # 12**

God is a God of order. All creation proclaims that fact; all science is predicated on that fact. The Lord Jesus, God manifest in the flesh, was devoted to order. So He had the people sit down “by companies” (Mark 6:39). – **John Phillips**

Then Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, blessed it, broke it, and then gave to the disciples who then distributed it to the multitudes.

It was common for the head of Jewish households to lead in prayer in this manner before eating a meal. A common prayer was, “***Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who bringeth forth bread from the earth.***”

Apparently that phrase “***broke and gave***” to the disciples involved a continuous on-going creation process until the 20,000 or so that were there were all served.

Jesus just kept on breaking off more and more and more food and handing it to the disciples who then served the various groups of 50 or 100.

Can you imagine the festive atmosphere that must have erupted? Can you imagine the flavor and the goodness of this food created and provided directly from God in the flesh Himself? It had to be GOOD!

This was a creation miracle! Only the Creator can create new things. We on a limited basis as people have the potential to make things out of other things in proportion to what we are using, but Christ created new additional realities all out of proportion to the already existing reality. Only the Creator can make brand new additional realities. This was a God-thing.

### **Slide # 13**

#### **John 1:3 (NKJV)**

**3** All things were made through Him, and **without Him nothing was made that was made.**

#### **Colossians 1:16 (NKJV)**

**16** For **by Him all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. **All things were created through Him and for Him.**

In creation, we see God's lordship on display over all things. God's creation power shows His authority over creation and His right to do with it as He pleases. This is established throughout the Scriptures.

One of the Names for Messiah in the OT is that of YHWH – the most sacred name for God (cf. Jer. 23:5-6). And YHWH is shown to be Creator-God (cf. Ex. 20:11; Neh. 9:6). Jesus shows that He is the true Messiah – YHWH – Creator-God by commanding nature to do His bidding. For example, as we will see next week (Lord willing) Jesus could walk on water and command the sea waves (cf. Mk. 4:35-41). Only the Creator who has sovereign control over nature could do that.

### **Slide # 14**

#### **Revelation 4:11 (NKJV)**

**11** "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

The power to create was unique to the Messiah Who was God come in the flesh. The apostles, supernaturally empowered by Christ (to a limited extent) were given power over disease and demons. But Christ alone did miracles over nature. Only Christ did CREATION miracles such as we see here in the feeding of the 5000 because He alone can do what God can do because He alone is Messiah-God.

This whole episode has very strong Messianic overtones. There is a whole series of Psalms that have a Messianic theme. One of these Messianic Psalms is Psalm 132. In the context of this Messianic Psalm we have this statement.

### **Slide # 15**

#### **Psalm 132:15 (NKJV)**

**15** I will abundantly bless her provision; **I will satisfy her poor with bread.**

God is shown to be doing this in a greater Messianic context.

In addition, when the people experienced Jesus feeding this massive multitude they perceived this was the Messianic prophet foretold by Moses in Deut. 18.

### **Slide # 16**

#### **Deuteronomy 18:15 (NKJV)**

**15** "The LORD your God will **raise up for you a Prophet like me** from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,

#### **John 6:14 (NKJV)**

**14** Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "**This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.**"

Furthermore, in John 6 the people who had eaten of Christ's miraculous provision of bread the day before were pressing Him to do more reminiscent of the manna their fathers had from heaven in the OT (cf. Jn. 6:30-31). They were thinking in terms that connected back to God's ongoing provision of manna in the OT.

The Jews had a tradition that the Messiah would miraculously feed the people with bread from heaven as Moses had done.

– ***Stanley Toussaint***

That is why in John 6:30-31 the people challenged Jesus saying, “What sign will you perform then, that we may see it and believe You?”... And then they proceeded to tell Him about how their fathers ate the manna in the desert.

### **Slide # 17**

Such an act in such a place (v. 15 [“a deserted place”]) recalls Yahweh’s miraculous provision of manna in the wilderness and declares Jesus to be Yahweh incarnate.

– ***Evangelical Commentary on the Bible***

Jesus then used this “bread theme” to segue to the ultimate issue (cf. Jn. 6:30-33) that was being illustrated. Jesus often segued from the physical to a spiritual application.

### **Slide # 18**

#### **John 6:32–33 (NKJV)**

**32** Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but **My Father** gives you the true bread from heaven.

**33** For **the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**”

They missed the point! God was the One who provided manna in the OT and He was the One Who provided the spiritual “bread of life” in the Person of Jesus Christ.

### **Slide # 19**

#### **John 6:34–36 (NKJV)**

**34** Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”

**35** And Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life**. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who **believes** in Me shall never thirst.

**36** But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet **do not believe**.

They were thinking merely on a physical/natural level – but the deeper spiritual truth being shown to them was that Jesus is Messiah-God Who is the spiritual bread of life – giving the sustenance of eternal life to all who believe in Him.

They needed to see Jesus as Messiah-Lord Who is Creator God incarnate.

But alas they failed to believe in Him for Who He was as the prophesied Messiah-God. They liked free lunch and wanted a Messiah who would do their bidding and do stuff for them like provide healing and food. In fact, they wanted to force the issue, but Christ's Messiahship must be accepted on His terms – namely believing in Him for WHO He is. He must be recognized as Lord who calls the shots – not the people.

### **Slide # 20**

#### **John 6:15 (NKJV)**

**15** Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and **take Him by force to make Him king**, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

They were right that He was the Messiah; but they were wrong about the kind of Messiah He was. He was not the political deliverer or food supplier they were expecting, and His coronation was not in their power to perform. ...as Jesus later declared, His “kingdom is not of this world” (Jn. 18:36). – **John MacArthur**

This time of Jesus again departing segues into our study for next week where we find Jesus walking on the water.

But note one more thing. The Jews knew from the OT Scriptures that when Messiah comes He would provide a Messianic banquet of which this was merely a foreshadowing (cf. Isa. 25:6; also Mt. 22:1-14; 26:29; Lk. 14:16-24). This event of feeding the 5000 had Messianic overtones written all over it which the people acknowledged – and yet they completely missed the central point of WHO Jesus really is as Messiah-God.

In this miracle of feeding the 5000 there are layers of things being taught and illustrated. Jesus was teaching the disciples but also illustrating the great truth of Him being the Messiah who is YHWH God in the flesh doing what only the Creator God can do - and as such that He is the bread of life for all who will believe in Him.

But note it well, Jesus said to the disciples, “***You give them something to eat***” (v. 16) and then in verse 19, “***the disciples gave to the multitudes.***” So, indeed the disciples did in fact give the people something to eat. But here is the point, they only did so because of Jesus. Jesus was the source. He's always the source of all we have to offer the people to bring about lasting satisfaction in their lives.

Again, the deeper application relates to spiritual realities, not merely physical realities. We bring to people the truth of the bread of life – but the real source behind our feeding the people is Christ Himself.

**20 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.**

No one went away hungry! The Lord's provision was sufficient and even more than sufficient. Christ's provision is always sufficient for all our ultimate needs! When all were filled they took up 12 baskets of left overs.

Why 12 and not 13 or some other number? We are not told and so we don't know for sure. But my guess is that the Lord orchestrated this outcome to impress His provision upon the disciples – especially in relation to what He had asked them as His 12 disciples to do! Remember that a key emphasis throughout this text has to do with Christ testing and teaching the 12 disciples in particular.

Without Christ they could do nothing, but with Christ there was more than sufficient provision as impressed upon the 12 as seen in the 12 full baskets of more than was needed. God's grace is always over the top sufficient!

### **Slide # 21**

**John 1:16 (ESV)**

**16** For from his fullness we have all received, **grace upon grace**.

### **Slide # 22**

**2 Corinthians 9:8 (NKJV)**

**8** And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, **always having all sufficiency in all things**, may have an **abundance for every good work**.

It is amazing how God's grace never runs out. He supplies our needs according to His riches in glory (Phil. 4:19; cf. Mt. 6:25, 31-33). Hudson Taylor said, "***God's work done God's way will never lack God's supply***". Certainly, in keeping with His will He always provides – and consistently in abundance (cf. Phil. 4:11-13).

**21 Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.**

Five thousand men had eaten but this does not include women and children. It is noted that many women were followers of Christ. But exactly how many ate at this Messianic banquet we are not told specifically. Estimates are anywhere from 10,000 to 25,000. Any way you measure it this was a large crowd that Jesus miraculously fed on this day.

### **Slide # 23**

The significance of this miracle was intended primarily for the disciples. Jesus was illustrating the kind of ministry they would have after His departure. They would be involved in feeding the people, but with spiritual food. The source of their feeding would be the Lord Himself. ...He would supply them, but the feeding would be done through them. – ***The Bible Knowledge Commentary***

After His resurrection when the Lord restored Peter what was a KEY emphasis that Jesus made with him? He said, “***Feed My sheep***” (cf. Jn. 21:15-17). People need to be fed God’s supernatural provision.

The miracle is a spiritual lesson for disciples of every generation. The hungry multitude is always present. There is always a little band of disciples with seemingly pitiful resources. And always there is the compassionate Savior. When disciples are willing to give Him their little all, He multiples it to feed [the multitudes]. – ***William MacDonald***

When it comes to the New Covenant Spiritual work of changed lives – only God can provide the food to do that. As Jesus said, “***It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’***” (Mt. 4:4). But note God does it by using us as the servers in the process. I often say, “***I am just the delivery boy!***”

### **2 Corinthians 2:15–16 (NKJV)**

**15** For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

**16** To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?

### **2 Corinthians 3:5 (NKJV)**

**5** Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,

A Christian was struggling with a heavy burden. In his prayers he would often say, “***It’s just you and me Lord.***” But as time went along he altered his prayers to say, “***It’s just you Lord.***” As Jesus said, “***without Me you can do nothing.***” God help us to rely on Him! He Himself is our sufficiency!