

You Feed Them

Mark 6:31-56

by Don Falkos

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Jesus and his apostles needed some rest. They set out in a boat for a solitary place. But people saw them leaving, ran ahead, and got there before them. As Jesus stepped out of the boat, he saw the crowd, like sheep without a shepherd, and began teaching them.

Late in the afternoon the disciples came to Jesus and said, "This is an isolated spot and it's already very late. Send these people away so they can go into the nearby towns and villages to buy food."

But Jesus said, "You feed them."

"With what? It would cost a small fortune to feed these people, and all we have is five loaves of bread and two fish."

There were five thousand men there. Jesus had everyone sit down. He took the bread and fish and gave thanks to God. The food was distributed among the people, all of whom ate their fill. Afterwards Jesus' disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers.

Jesus immediately sent his disciples on ahead in the boat while he dismissed the crowd. Then he went off alone to pray. By evening the boat was out in the middle of the lake. The disciples were in trouble, struggling against the wind and the waves. At about three in the morning, Jesus went out to them, walking on the water. When they saw him they were terrified; they thought they were seeing a ghost.

But Jesus called out, "Don't be afraid. It's me." He climbed into the boat, and immediately the wind died down. They were amazed.

When they landed, people recognized Jesus. The sick were brought to him hoping to touch even just the edge of his cloak, and everyone who touched him was healed.