

Five Loaves and Two Fish

John 6:1-21

by Don Falkos

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It was nearly time for the Passover celebration when Jesus crossed over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd was following him wherever he went, because they had seen him miraculously heal the sick. Then Jesus went up into the hills near Bethsaida and sat down with his disciples. He saw the crowd coming and said to Philip, "You're from Bethsaida. Where could we buy food for these people?" He was testing Philip; he already knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered, "We could never afford to buy food for all these people."

Then Andrew said, "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But that wouldn't go very far with this crowd."

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

When the people realized the miracle Jesus had just performed, they said, "He must be the prophet we've been waiting for." Jesus knew they were on the verge of carrying him off to make him their king. He slipped away into the hills by himself.

Evening came and darkness fell. Still Jesus hadn't come back. The disciples went down to the shore, got into a boat, and headed across toward Capernaum. A strong wind started blowing, and the sea became very rough. They had managed to row about halfway to their destination when they saw Jesus walking on the water toward the boat. They were terrified. But Jesus called out to them, "Don't be afraid. It's me!"

They gladly took him aboard, and all at once they arrived at the shore they'd been making for.