

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

Luke 9:1-17

by Don Falkos

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Jesus gave his apostles power to cure diseases of all kinds. He gave them authority over evil spirits. Then he sent them out to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. He told them, "Don't take anything with you – no walking stick, no bag, no food, no money, no extra clothes – nothing. When you're welcomed into a home, stay there until you leave that town. If people don't welcome you, leave their town and shake the dust off your feet as a protest against them."

When the Twelve came back, they told Jesus all about the things they had done.

Jesus took his apostles and went to a place near the town of Bethsaida to be alone. But people discovered where they'd gone and large crowds followed after them. Jesus welcomed the people, talked to them about the Kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

Late in the afternoon, the Twelve came to Jesus and said, "Lord, you should send these people away so they can go into the nearby towns and villages to find food and places to stay. This is an isolated spot."

But Jesus said, "You feed them."

"What? There are five thousand men here. All we have is five loaves of bread and two fish...unless you want us to go and buy food for all these people."

Jesus said, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty."

They did as he said, having everyone sit down. Jesus 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.