

The Best Meal I Ever Ate

November 23, 2014

Jesus Feeds 5,000

Mark 6:30-44

(also found in Matthew 14, Luke 9, John 6)

Whatever the conditions, when Jesus fed the 5,000 — no one had a bad meal!

• The Guests

- the multitude was varied
 - disciples
 - vs. 34 — lost — like sheep without a shepherd
 - vs. 33 — eager — ran there on foot from all the cities
 - vs. 31 — tired and weary — the disciples were spent from their labors
 - vs. 36 — hungry — had nothing to eat
 - Matthew 14:14 — sick — Jesus healed their sick
- the multitude had little to nothing
 - vs. 36 — multitude had nothing
 - vs. 37 — disciples had little money and nowhere to spend it
 - vs. 38 — disciples had little food
- they were in a desolate and deserted place
 - geographically they were all in a deserted place
 - vss. 6:30-32 — disciples were in a deserted place in body, mind, and spirit

• The Host

- Jesus received the multitude just as they were
 - Jesus had compassion — healed, taught, and fed them
 - Jesus related to their condition of need
 - Matthew 14:10-13 — he and disciples were in mourning because of death of John the Baptist
- Jesus received what little they had
 - He asked nothing from the multitudes
 - Mark 6:35-38 — he did ask for something from the disciples
 - He took and used what little they had
- Jesus received them where they stood
 - He wouldn't send the multitudes away empty
 - He provided rest where they stood in the deserted place
 - Mark 6:39 — had them sit in groups on the "green grass"
 - Psalm 23:1-2a — He was truly the Good Shepherd, making them lie down in "green pastures"

• **The Meal**

- it was a Special Meal
 - Mark 6:41-44
 - miraculous
 - plentiful (5,000 men ate and all were filled)
 - it was satisfying (the word “filled” in vs. 42 also means “satisfying”)
 - there were leftovers!
 - it foreshadowed another Special Meal
 - Jesus took the loaves, bless them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples
 - so too, would he take the bread at the Last Supper
 - in this present meal, He had the disciples hand out and share the loaves to the multitude
 - at the Last Supper, He passed on the sharing of His body, the bread, to all the multitudes, who would become His body, the church
 - it followed a pattern of Many Special Meals
 - the feeding of the five thousand pointed to the Last Supper
 - at the Last Supper, Jesus pointed to a future and far better meal
 - the Marriage Supper of the Lamb
 - all good meals that have gone before
 - Passovers and other Jewish feasts
 - Jesus and wedding at Cana
 - feeding the 5,000, and later feeding the 4,000
 - the Last Supper
 - and as often as we gather in His name and remember Him ...
 - all point to “That Day” when we will feast together with Him in His Kingdom

• **This Thanksgiving**

- come as you are
- bring what you have
- right where you stand
- “taste and see that the Lord is Good!” (Psalm 34:8a)

Discussion Questions

1. Which one of the “guests” at the feeding of the 5,000 would most closely represent you?
2. Read Mark 6:30-32, and Matthew 14:10-13. What is the physical and mental shape of the disciples? Of Jesus?
3. What did it require of the disciples to put their own physical, mental, and emotional needs aside, in order to minister to thousands of needy people?

4. Read Mark 6:39 and Psalm 23:1-2a. How does this reflect Jesus' compassion for the multitudes?
How does this impact your understanding of how He cares for you as an individual?
5. Jesus did not have to change the circumstances of the situation. He met every person where they were.
How can you help others to understand that Jesus will accept them — no matter who, or where they are?
6. No one had the adequate resources needed to meet this tremendous need.
But the little that was offered was enough for Jesus to do something with.
What "little" do you have — that you've thought has not been "good enough" to offer Jesus?
7. The disciples were involved hands-on in the actual miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes.
Yet they still did not fully understand or accept who Jesus was.
After Jesus has worked in your life, why does your faith weaken so quickly?
8. How does the feeding of the five thousand foreshadow the Last Supper?
9. How does the Last Supper point to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?
10. How will this message affect your experience this coming Thanksgiving?