

**Gospel of Matthew “Bread of Life”**  
**Matthew 14:13-21**  
**July 9 , 2023**

Matthew 14:13-21

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.

14 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. 15 Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” 16 But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” 17 They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” 18 And he said, “Bring them here to me.” 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Jesus calls us to give what little we have because it is not the quality or quantity of what we have that matters but whose hands we put it in.

Elizabeth Elliot Quote - “If the only thing you have to offer is a broken heart, you offer a broken heart. So in a time of grief, the recognition that this is material for sacrifice has been a very great strength to me. Realizing that nothing I have, nothing I am will be refused on the part of Christ I simply give it to Him as the little boy gave Jesus his five loaves and two fishes - with the same feeling of the disciples when they said, “What is the good of that for such a crowd?” Naturally in almost anything I offer to Christ, my reaction would be, “What is the good of that?” The point is, the use He makes of it is His blessing.”

The Bread of Presence.

Manna.

John 6:26-29

26 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” 28 Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” 29 Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

Every false life dulls you.

Sit down on the grass.

Martin Luther Quote - "We might compare two persons who possess a hundred gold coins. The one may carry them in a paper sack, the other may keep them in an iron chest. But for all that, both possess the entire treasure. Thus the Christ whom you and I own is one and the same, regardless of the strength or the weakness of your faith or of mine. In Him we possess all, whether we hold Him with a strong faith or a weak faith. The entire service of God is contained in this: Believe in Christ, whom the Father has sent to you. Accept His pronouncement. You can offer God nothing more pleasing to Him in heaven or on earth."

John 6:30-33

30 So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" 32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave 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."

Not manna this time but the Son of Man.

John 6:34-35

34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." 35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

The Gift is the Giver.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- Jesus wanted to retreat. What are the difficulties you face in stepping away from your current responsibilities to get refueled?
- Have you felt the tension of unending work/ministry and pulling back with healthy boundaries? What have you learned?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus takes an inadequate lunch and feeds thousands of people? What might this mean regarding how God can use your life, personal weaknesses and disappointments?
- In John 6:27, Jesus talks about a bread that perishes or spoils. What are the kinds of things we hope to be satisfied in that leave us wanting?
- The crowd wanted another miracle or sign. How do you know if you are seeking more miracles or more of Jesus? Is there a difference?
- How do we "feed" on Jesus? How are Christians still hungry and thirsty? How do you explain to a non-Christian this sense of hunger and thirst and the difference faith in Jesus brings?
- How can your Grow Group personally encourage you this week as it relates to this teaching?