

The Feeding of the 5,000 **Matthew 14:13–21**

This miraculous sign was recorded by all of the evangelists in their Gospels. They saw it as a striking display of the Lord's compassion for people in their need and of His power to do something about their need. The miracle surely led the people to think of the Lord's miraculously filling their ancestors' needs with the manna in the wilderness.

“Now when Jesus heard this” refers to the execution of John the Baptist by Herod (vv. 6–12).

188. What does it say about Jesus that this report made Him withdraw to a desolate place? What does it say about Jesus that even at such a time in His life and ministry, He did not decline to minister to the crowd?
189. What motivated the disciples to come to Jesus with the suggestion that He send the crowd away so they could buy themselves some food? How did Jesus challenge them, and how did they respond?
190. How do Jesus' words pose a challenge also for us today? (See 1 John 3:16–18.) How can we best approach the challenge of feeding the hungry of America and of the world?

Matthew did not mention the lad who supplied the loaves and the fish; John did. He also did not mention the distribution of the fish; Mark did. Matthew hurried to the miracle itself.

191. How did Jesus focus attention on the divine nature of what was happening?

The Greek *ephagon*, "they ate," is the word that was used for feeding cattle as much as they can eat to fatten them for market. It emphasizes the abundance of Jesus' provision.

192. What numbers did Matthew include to emphasize the magnitude of the miracle?