

October 8, 2023AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier

Luke 9:10-17 “Jesus Fed Five Thousand”

- A. We spend a tremendous amount of our waking hours involved with food.
- B. Earlier in this chapter, the Lord Jesus gave to the twelve power and authority **“over all the demons and to heal diseases. And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing” (Lu 9:1-2).**

Put your faith in Jesus who fed the five thousand.	I. <u>THE CARING CHRIST</u> II. <u>THE FILLING CHRIST</u>
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I. THE CARING CHRIST → vv10-11

A. After His intense work in the ministry, Christ sought a time to withdraw for some rest along with his apostles. They were not going into the village of Bethsaida yet to a secluded place nearby.

- 1. Earlier in Lu 4, Jesus **“went to a secluded place” (v42)** for this purpose. This time He invited His apostles to come with Him (v10).
- 2. Most sensible people wouldn’t have faulted Jesus if He turned the crowds away, saying that He needed some time to rest first before He could see them.
- 3. Instead of turning them away, Jesus **“welcomed”** the crowds that followed Him.
 - a. **“He began speaking to them about the kingdom of God” (v11).**
 - 1. Jesus provided for their spiritual needs first.
 - 2. When you have various needs— financial, health or social— remember that your greatest need is to receive God’s Word that has power to revive you (Ps 119:5) when it is received by faith.
 - b. After teaching them, Jesus began **“curing those who had need of healing” (v11).**

B. As **“the day was ending,”** His twelve apostles mentioned another need which they thought the crowds should go and take care of for themselves. → v12

- 1. There are some who may criticize the apostles for lacking faith here; however, they were unaware Christ could feed the crowds until He demonstrated His creative power to them.
- 2. At least one of them should have remembered how God performed a miracle for the widow of Zarephath wherein her bowl of flour was never exhausted nor the jar of oil ever empty until the Lord sent rain to ending a terrible drought during the days of Elijah (1 Ki 17:8-16).

C. Notice the exchange between Jesus and the twelve. → vv13-15

- 1. I once thought Jesus was sarcastic when saying, **“You give them something to eat!** Christ’s words here did come to pass. Of their meager store of food they did give them all something to eat because of the Messiah’s miracle.
- 2. What the apostles proposed next was highly impractical and impossible, given their limited very limited resources.

D. The apostles likely began to anticipate Christ’s plan to care for the people when He told them, **“Have them sit down to eat in groups of about fifty each.” They did so, and had them all sit down” (vv14-15).**

II. THE FILLING CHRIST →**v16**

A. Notice first Christ's example for prayer.

1. Most Christians bow their heads down and close their eyes when they pray. The posture for worship and prayer most often used in the OT is a bowing down of the whole body— not just the head.¹
2. Praying with the eyes closed is a helpful invention to keep us from getting distracted. Keep in mind that this is an invention and not something commanded in Scripture.
 - a. Jesus did something different here. He was **“looking up to heaven”** when He prayed and blessed the bread and fish.
 - b. Try to pray when outdoors and looking at the beauty of God's creation, especially the heavens.

B. After blessing the bread and fish, He **“broke them, and kept giving them to the disciples to set before the people.”**

C. Jesus didn't just provide enough for them to eat; He provided an overabundance. →**v17**

1. The communities in this region were made up of subsistence farmers and fishermen. They saw 12 baskets of left over fragments as a great blessing that would not go to waste!
2. There is a deeper spiritual meaning in Jesus being able to satisfy the crowd's hunger.
 - a. Jesus will fill the truly hungry soul that seeks after Him. **Mat 5:6** says, **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”**
 1. Worldly possessions, your work, leisure, earthly relationships— nothing can satisfy your greatest need— to know how you can have peace with God who created you.
 2. Only Jesus can reconcile you to God through His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension if you trust in Him with a living faith.
 3. Earthly food may satisfy you for 4-5 hours; only Jesus as the bread the Father sent down from heaven can sustain you for eternity.
 4. Citing **Deut 8**, Jesus said, **“Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”**
 - b. For the 5,000 plus who ate this miraculous food that Jesus provided, their eating of this meal did not mean they had eternal life as a result. → **Jn 6:26-35**

Review, further application, and conclusion:

¹ Gen 24:25-48, Ex 4:31, Ex 34:8, Ex 12:27, 1 Chron 29:20, Neh 8:6