



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The Greatest and Best Miracle

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities sharing scripture, teaching, forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, and raising the dead. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly preached the Kingdom of God. Jesus is nearly half way through His 3 year ministry when He sends His select 12 common men to heal and preach. Jesus' impact became known to the common and to the royalty. He wants to withdraw to a city, yet Jerusalem is down the road and His mission continues to drive Him to cure, heal and most importantly preach the kingdom of God. In the following passages it's getting late in the day and the people following Jesus are getting hungry.

“Now the day was ending, and the twelve came and said to Him, “Send the crowd away, that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside and find lodging and get something to eat; for here we are in a desolate place.” But He said to them, “You give them something to eat!” And they said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless perhaps we go and buy food for all these people.” (For there were about five thousand men.) And He said to His disciples, “Have them sit down to eat in groups of about fifty each.” They did so, and had them all sit down. Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them, and broke them, and kept giving them to the disciples to set before the people. And they all ate and were satisfied; and the broken pieces which they had left over were picked up, twelve baskets full.” (Luke 9:12-17 NASB Mt 14:15-21; Mk 6:35-44 & Jn 6 1-14)

After Jesus taught and healed He fed people. Luke describes that a tired Jesus had just welcomed the crowds and He healed those in need and preached the kingdom of God. Jesus served and did what was best for the people rather than what might have provided rest and comfort to himself. And now it's getting later and the crowd is hungry.

Jesus directed the disciples. Jesus directs the disciple to feed the people. Matthew records that there were 5000 men, not counting women and children (Mt 14:21). It was likely that there could have been 20,000 people. Jesus specifically directs Philip to buy food for the people and Philip says that there is not enough money (Jn 6:5-7). Subsequently, Andrew advises Jesus that he has five loaves and two fishes. Then Jesus directs the disciple to have the crowd sit in an orderly fashion, in groups of fifty.

Jesus blesses the food. Jesus blessed the food and distributed more food than the crowd could eat. Twelve baskets were leftover and likely provided to the 12 apostles for their use. Several verses earlier Jesus had sent the apostles to heal and preach the gospel, telling them to not take anything with them, He would provide. Here Jesus not only provides food for His apostles again, but feeds 20,000 people.

Best miracle yet to come. While only this miracle and the last week of Christ's ministry is recorded in all four gospels, and while it may have been the largest miracle involving people, the greatest and best miracle is yet to come in Jerusalem a year later. All four gospels record that Jesus will die for sinners, Jesus will be buried and Jesus will be resurrected on the third day. Jesus through that miracle provides hope and the opportunity for eternal life with Him for those that believe and have faith in Him.

For Your Consideration:

- We see two different reactions to Jesus directions; Philip's suggestion that we didn't have enough money and Andrew's provision of five loaves and two fishes given to Jesus for His use. Are you more like Philip or Andrew?
- If you had been in the crowd what would have been your reaction?
- Are you ready and willing to let Jesus provide all that you really need?

BIBLE STUDIES

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STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44