



## What Jesus Said

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### X003. Matthew 14:13-21 The Feeding of the Five Thousand

Further study on the Feeding of the Five Thousand (Original study is located at Jesus Said, St Matthew, Lesson 28)

#### The Scripture:

**Matthew 14:13** - When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns.

**14:14** - When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

**14:15** - As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

**14:16** - Jesus replied, **"They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."**

**14:17** - "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

**14:18** - **"Bring them here to me,"** he said.

**14:19** - And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.

**14:20** - They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

**14:21** - The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

## The Explanation:

Although this miracle is called the Five Thousand it is believed the figure could have been double or even triple the number stated as women and children were also fed. The story is quite straight forward. The amount of food was given to Jesus; He thanked God for the food and shared it with his Disciples who in turn shared this with the assembled crowd. After the crowd and the Disciples had finished eating their fill, the Disciples then gathered twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over!

## Places and People Mentioned:

### The Disciples

Jesus had twelve Disciples (also referred to as 'The Apostles'), they are: 1. **Simon**, who is called **Peter**, 2. **Andrew** his brother, 3. **James** the son of **Zebedee**, 4. **John** his brother, 5. **Philip**, 6. **Bartholomew**, 7. **Thomas**, 8. **Matthew** the tax collector, 9. **James** the son of Alphaeus, 10. **Thaddaeus**, also known as Judas son of James or Judas the Good), 11. **Simon** the Zealot and 12. **Judas** Iscariot.

## Questions:

1. Although the Gospel of St. Matthew says there were 'five thousand men' it is also evident that the women and children would not have been counted. Why do you think that was?
2. If we said there were half the women there as men, and half the children there as women, we're still talking about a crowd of over 8,700 people! With a bit of maths needed, it would mean that the portions are going to be very small indeed – and very doubtful that there would be twelve basketfuls of bread picked up! So what happened?
3. The breaking of bread at the start of a meal is a Jewish Tradition. What does it signify today?
4. In Jewish Law, the person who breaks bread has to sit and eat with the people present – and family. Why would Jesus eat with the Disciples? How would he regard them?