

Sermon Outlines

The Feeding of The Five Thousand (2)

"Give ye them to eat."
Mark 6:37

The importance of this episode in the life of Christ is indicated by its presence in all four Gospels, the only miracle so recorded. It is connected with the disciples' report of the death of John the Baptist and their return from their first preaching tour.

I. A Busy Time (vs. 30-34)

1. Both they and their Master needed rest. Both Lord and worker had wrought and taught many things.
2. They were under great pressure and were greatly needed.
3. Amid gathering crowds, Christ was calm. This was the time for sowing, not reaping.
4. He had a deep compassion for the crowds. This was ever Christ's way.

II. A Pressing Need (vs. 35-38)

1. The place was uninhabited, hence no source of food.
2. The time was late.
3. The need was great - 200 pence equal to about \$24.
4. The supply was scanty, if reckoned without Christ. But duty is not measured by human ability but by divine enabling.

III. A Full Supply (vs. 39-44)

1. Orderly arrangement; it took faith on the part of the disciples to seat the crowds and on the part of the crowds to sit down when bidden.
2. Devout testimony to the Father by the blessing of the food.
3. General bestowal upon the multitudes.
4. Entire satisfaction, not partial. Significance of twelve basketfuls remaining may have been for each of the disciples to have his rightful share.

Conclusion

1. Christ's Motive - compassion. On the suffering multitudes and also on the disciples' faith. Christ is concerned with both spiritual and physical needs.
2. Christ's Manner - calmness. There was no fear, but rather an attitude of full sufficiency.
3. Christ's Method - cooperation. It was through the disciples that He worked on this occasion; it is through believers that He works today.

His Compassion, Capability, Care - beyond our need, our merit, our comprehension.

. . . . *W.H. Griffith Thomas, D.D.*