

# Famous Givers Part 4 *When your Needs are Greater than Your Resources!*

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Message to Conversation Guide

## Key Texts

### John 6:1-13

1 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), 2 **and a great crowd of people** followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. 3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. 4 The Jewish Passover Feast was near.

5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, **"Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"** 6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

7 Philip answered him, **"Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"**

8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9 **"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"**

10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. 11 **Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted.** He did the same with the fish.

12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." 13 **So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.** NIV (See also [Matthew 14:13-21](#), [Mark 6:30-44](#), [Luke 9:10-17](#))

## Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the following bits of data from Nelsons Bible Dictionary about the Sea of Galilee (Sea of Tiberias)

- *Sometimes called The "Sea of Chinnereth" [or "Chinneroth"] (the Hebrew word for "harp-shaped," the general outline of the lake; **Num 34:11; Josh 12:3; 13:27.***

- *The lake itself is nearly 21 kilometers (13 miles) long and 13 kilometers (8 miles) wide at Magdala, the point of its greatest width.*

- *The lake is surrounded, except on the southern side, by steep cliffs and sharply rising mountains. On the east these mountains rise to the Golan Heights.*

2. What were the two particular events that led up to the feeding of the 5000 according to the verses below?

### **Matt 14:6-14**

6 On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for them and pleased Herod so much 7 that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. 8 Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." 9 The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted 10 and had John beheaded in the prison. 11 His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. 12 John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus. 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 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. NIV

### **Mark 6:30-34**

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. 31 Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "**Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.**" 32 So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. 33 But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. 34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. NIV (see also **Mark 6:7-13**)

3. The feeding of the 5000 illustrates God's faithfulness when the needs that are in front of you are greater than your resources to meet those needs. Discuss the different type of needs that we are challenged to meet in life that exceed our physical, emotional or financial resources. How do the verses below address this issue?

### **2 Peter 1:3-4**

3 **His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness** through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. NIV

**2 Cor 12:9-10**

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, **for my power is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. NIV