

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (August 13, 2023)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

We have four separate accounts of the life, the teachings, the miracles, of Jesus (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). Two of the authors (Matthew, and John) walked with Jesus, watched Him, talked to Him. They were eyewitnesses of the events they wrote down. Of the other two, Mark was closely connected to Peter, one of the original disciples. It's understood that Mark wrote down the sermons and stories Peter told as he talked about Jesus. Luke did the same for his friend Paul. The first three (Matthew, Mark and Luke) share so many of the same teachings, the same stories, the same miracles, the same message, that they are often referred to as the Synoptic (Synoptic = Syn (same) + optic (view)) Gospels (Gospel = Good News). John, the last of the four accounts to be written, provides insights, stories, and details the other three do not include. All four record the events up to, and including, Jesus' death by crucifixion. They also all declare His Easter morning resurrection. The only other miracle that all four share ... I think I've got this right ... is the miracle that is our focus this morning, the miracle of the feeding of the 5000. Jesus took a little and made it BIG. This morning a cast of actors and singers will bring to life Sonny's Salsbury's musical, "Little Big Lunch." As you read through this miracle picture yourself in the crowd. Then picture yourself as one of Jesus' disciples, "How can we feed so many with five loaves and two fish?" And then see yourself as the young boy bringing what he offered ... and watching it GROW! Now that's SOMETHING amazing ... because of SOMEONE, JESUS!

Little BIG Lunch (John 6:1-15. See also Matt 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17)
John 6

"¹ After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ² And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³ Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵ Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?' ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷ Philip answered him, 'Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.' ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?' ¹⁰ Jesus said, 'Have the people sit

down.' Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.' ¹³ So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, 'This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!'

¹⁵ Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself."

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. What does this say about why people followed Jesus?
2. What does this say about the concerns of the disciples?
3. How much did Philip estimate it would cost for all to have a little? (a "denarii" was full pay for a full day's work.)
4. What does this passage say about "how" the bread and fish were multiplied? How much was leftover?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

5. What does it mean, "he himself knew what he would do"? v6.
6. What did Andrew mean "but what are they for so many"? v9.
7. Why would Jesus tell them to gather up the leftovers?
8. Why would they want to make Jesus king, by force if needed?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

9. If you had been one of the crowd what would you have thought about this miracle? If you were one of the disciples?
10. If you had been the young boy in this story ... How would you have responded to Jesus after this experience?
11. Why do you think Jesus made more than enough? Discuss.
12. Have you ever felt you did not have enough of something? What did you do? Did it affect your relationship with God?
13. Do you believe God cares for you even when you don't have enough? Explain. Are there Bible verses that speak about this? What do you need most when you are in need?

As you spend time praying remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural part of your day. Prayer is a conversation: talking to God and listening to God. Ask God to help you depend on Him for everything. Ask God to help you trust Him even when you don't have enough, or when life is hard. He will help provide. He loves you.