

MYSTERY & MAJESTY

– 8 –

A Compassionate Saviour

**All Scriptures are in the English Standard Version
unless indicated otherwise**

- ❖ Jesus appears as the compassionate King
- ❖ The new Moses who feeds Israel in the wilderness
- ❖ A prophet greater than Elisha
- ❖ The divine Shepherd who provides abundantly for His people.
- ❖ The miracle is not mainly about the usefulness of a small lunch.
- ❖ It is about the identity and sufficiency of Jesus.
- This is the only miracle recorded in all four gospels.
- Matthew and John were eyewitnesses
- Mark records what he received through Peter

- Luke, the Gentile historian, also includes it.
 - Matthew 14:13–21
 - Mark 6:30–44
 - Luke 9:10–17
 - John 6:1–15

Matthew 14:13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.

- The previous passage ends with John the Baptist being murdered at Herod's banquet.
- Matthew then immediately moves to Jesus feeding the multitude.
- It creates a contrast between two rulers and two meals.

“When he heard...” – 2 possibilities are suggested:

1. Herod heard of his ministry because Herod thought he was JTB back from the dead.

2. He heard of John's death.

- This is not cowardice. Its wisdom.

- Learn when to step forward and step back.
- They ran ahead to a desolate place to find him.
- They are hungry physically but also hungry spiritually.

Matthew 14:14 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

- The crowds interrupt that withdrawal.
- Yet Matthew does not describe Jesus as annoyed.
- He is moved with compassion.
- A deep inward emotional response.
- Don't let what you're going through cause you to lose your compassion for people.
- The text doesn't tell us what else Jesus is feeling but we know, regardless of what else he felt, he felt compassion for them.
- Compassion doesn't mean you forget what you're going through.

- Speculation: Its possible John was the last of his family alive because of the age of his parents when they conceived.

Matthew 14:15-18 15 Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” 16 But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” 17 They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” 18 And he said, “Bring them here to me.”

- The disciples are not trying to be cruel.
- Mark says Jesus taught them before feeding them.
- Care for people, but tell them the truth.
- A poor boy has 5 loaves and 2 fish.
- We know he was poor because John said he had barley loaves, which was the bread of the poor.
- Will you pray or panic?
- Jehovah Jireh – the lord will provide.

Matthew 14:19-21 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

- He commanded them to sit – obedience.
- Divides them into groups of 100's & 50's.
- Not prosperity but Christ.
- This is about revealing Jesus.
- This miracle mirrors God leading the Israelites out of Egypt, through the desert where he fed them with manna (bread from heaven).
- 12 baskets leftover representing the 12 tribes of Israel but also the abundance of God's provision.
- Both the manna and the bread was to symbolize, the need for eternal life.

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.