

**A massive crowd follows a major TEACHER**

Jesus is about 2 years into his public ministry where he has been healing people, driving out demons, and restoring wholeness to thousands. Word about him was spreading everywhere, even to the secular and religious rulers. A huge crowd of 5000 men *plus* women and children—probably making it 12-15,000 people—come to hear Jesus teach. *Good news should travel fast!* It was an exciting time for the disciples to see such a large crowd around their rabbi when less than 2 years ago they lacked prestige or influence. Though Judas was the treasurer, Philip may have been the ‘numbers/accountant guy’ as Jesus asked him directly about the practicality of feeding the masses. Philip was also from nearby Bethsaida so he would have known how impossible getting food from the area would be. *God will often lead us to problems to help us find the answers through Him!*

**A massive problem finds a major SOLUTION**

At the end of a long day, Jesus and the disciples were tired, and the crowd was hungry. The disciples wanted Jesus to dismiss the crowd to leave so they wouldn’t have to deal with them (Mark 6:35, 36). *Sometimes the beautiful blessing of God also arrives with a lot of hard work!* This desire was selfish, and Jesus uses the situation as a teaching opportunity for them and divine grace for the crowd. After searching, they find a boy with five barley cakes and two fish. Jesus blesses them, puts them in baskets and they continually replenish until everyone was full! At the end, there were 12 baskets leftover showing that even in God’s bounty there shouldn’t be waste. *There is always enough of God’s blessing to go around!*

**A massive desire needs a major CORRECTION**

As Jesus can heal people, raise the dead, and create food on command, he has everything a conqueror needs. The men realize this and want to make him King. But instead of making the 5000 men into an army and starting a social and political revolution, Jesus retreats away. *Be careful not to confuse God’s mission with political ambition.* The people wanted a social and political savior, but Jesus offered a personal and spiritual Savior. They see in Jesus physical freedom, but he sees in them the need for spiritual freedom. *Always keep the main thing the main thing and the only main thing!*