



MIRACLE #4: THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND "DESPISE NOT OUR FIVE LOAVES AND OUR TWO FISH!"

In the Bible, 7 is the number of Divine Completion. This is an exciting reminder that God is committed to completing His supernatural work in our lives in ways that are beyond our ability! Whatever is missing, whatever lacking, let the count begin. This Summer is our chance to DISCOVER GOD IN THE 7!

Apostle John was one of the Twelve Apostles ([MATTHEW 10: 1-4](#)); he was also one of three Apostles to see Jesus Christ glorified on Mt. Transfiguration ([MATTHEW 17:1-13](#)); he was also the closest Apostle to Jesus's bosom ([JOHN 13:23](#)); he was also the last of the Apostles to die in exile on the Island of Patmos ([REVELATION 1:9](#)).



Jesus commissioned him to write the things which he saw in the past, the things which he was dealing with in the present and the things which he saw through the Spirit for the future. He wrote this Gospel of John between 95 to 100 A.D. which contains these 7 miracles ([REVELATION 1:19](#)). However, he did not write down all the things that Jesus did, only those things that readers could use to become Followers of Jesus ([JOHN 20:30](#))! This Revelation that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of Living God is the foundation that the Church is built on ([MATTHEW 16:13-20](#))! God did miraculous things through Jesus Christ to prove He is worthy of our trust in His leadership ([ACTS 2:22](#))!



- **REVIEW**

- **MIRACLE #1: WATER INTO WINE IN CANA: CRAZY FAITH!** ([JOHN 2:1-11](#))
- **MIRACLE #2: HEALING THE OFFICIAL'S SON IN CAPERNAUM: REVEALING IN THE HEALING!** ([JOHN 4:43-54](#))
- **MIRACLE #3: THE HEALING AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA: GET UP!** ([JOHN 5:1-9](#))
- **MIRACLE #4: THE FEEDING OF FIVE THOUSAND AT BETHSAIDA: "DESPISE NOT OUR FIVE LOAVES AND OUR TWO FISH!"** ([JOHN 6:1-14](#))

- The beginning of the Miracle #4 starts with the heartbreaking news of John the Baptist's beheading by King Herod, with the successful return of the 12 Apostles initial missionary work and the thriving ministry in the city of Capernaum which was about 20 miles away from Jesus' hometown, Nazareth. So many were coming and going that they hardly had anytime to eat nor anytime for leisure! So, Jesus called His 12 Apostles away for rest to the city of Bethsaida which was on the other side of the Sea of Galilee. This was Apostle Andrew, Apostle Peter and Apostle Philip's hometown. They took a boat ride to a desert area outside of this city where they then rested on a mountaintop.

6 After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ²Then a great multitude **followed** Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. ³And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His Disciples ⁴Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. ⁵Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him . . . (**JOHN 6:1-5, NKJV**).

- When the great crowd heard that Jesus and His Apostles had left them, they pursued Him by foot for 6 miles around the Sea of Galilee to this desert area. When they arrived at the mountain that Jesus and His Apostles were resting, He was shocked and came down to welcome them. When He perceived they were like sheep without a shepherd (i.e., no leadership), He had compassion on them by healing all their sick and by teaching them things pertaining to the Kingdom of God! As the evening quickly approached, Jesus was found still pouring out His heart in ministry!
- Ultimately, Jesus Christ was sent by our Heavenly Father to lead us into New Jerusalem (**REVELATION 7:13-17**)!
- Follow-*akoloutheo*- (91x) reach (1x) (*keleuthos*-a road)- to follow one who precedes, join him as his attendant, accompany him, to join one as a disciple, to become his disciple or to side with his party.
- Faith is seen the most in what person or what ideal that you are following!
- Our faith journey is more correctly symbolized by a shoe rather than a pew. – **Pastor Terrence Bridges**





He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?"⁶ But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.⁷ Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little" (**JOHN 6:5-7, NKJV**).

- Then Jesus' Apostles came to counsel Him to send away this great crowd to the local countryside, cities and villages to get provisions, food and lodging. Testing His Apostles, He initially responded by saying there was no need to send them away. Then He commanded His Apostles to feed this hungry crowd, instead. He asked Apostle Philip how much money did they have to purchase food. They only had an equivalent of \$6 in their possession.
- We grow from faith to faith through testing (**MARK 10:28-31**)!
 - Abraham's faith was tested with Isaac (**GENESIS 22:1-19**)!
 - Our faith will be tested for purification too (**1 PETER 1:6-8**)!

⁸One of His Disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, ⁹"There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" (**JOHN 6:8-9, NKJV**)

- Then Jesus asked His Apostles how much food did they have. More specifically, He commanded them to take inventory on exactly what they had in their possession. Apostle

Andrew found a young boy who was willing to give up his lunch of five barley loaves and two fish towards this cause. However, they all concluded that what they had would not be enough to meet this great need.



- Do not discount your seeds while comparing them with other peoples' fruits! Despise not our five loaves and our two fish no matter how large your problem maybe (ZECHARIAH 4:10)!
 - Despise- to feel contempt for, to look down at, to hate, or to discount.
 - Embarrass- to cause to feel ashamed, to humiliate, to demean or to crush.

- Unless you change your mind about what is in your hand, then you won't be able to seize your God created opportunities for greatness (**EXODUS 4:1-17**)!
- God loves to conceal treasure in hopes that you would research and bring it out (**PROVERBS 25:2**)!
- God loves to give you great things in ugly wrapping paper – **Pastor Terrence Bridges**
- Donate your small things to God's Great Cause!
 - David was able to connect his small stature with God's great purpose (**I SAMUEL 17:28-29**)!
 - God's cause/business is reconciling Himself with His children (**II CORINTHIANS 5:17-21**)!

¹⁰ Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So, the men sat down, in number about five thousand. ¹¹ And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He **distributed** them to the Disciples, and the Disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted (**JOHN 6:10-11, NKJV**).

- Then Jesus commanded His Apostles to order the great crowd to sit down in groups of hundreds and fifties. There were about 5,000 men, not including the women nor the children! Once the great crowd was organized, then He took the food, looked up to Heaven and thanked God for what they did have. Then He broke it up and gave it to His Apostles who then distributed it to this great crowd.
- Faith has two parts:
 - Faith brings your needs to Jesus.
 - Faith also empowers you to obey His instructions.
- Learn to "mind" your own business. Also learn to "mine" your past to start your own successful business! (**MATTHEW 25:14-29**)
 - TAKE INVENTORY!
 - TAKE OWNERSHIP!
 - TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!
- What has Jesus chosen to gift the World from God through you? (**EPHESIANS 4:1-16**)
 - APOSTLES = GO!
 - PROPHETS = GUIDE!
 - EVANGELIST = GATHER!
 - PASTORS = GROW!
 - TEACHERS = GROUND!

¹²So when they were filled, He said to His Disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." ¹³Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten (JOHN 6:12-13, NKJV)



- When they had all eaten to their full, He then commanded His Apostles to gather up all the leftovers. It worked out that there was one full basket for each of the 12 Apostles.
 - Make sure you gather your leftovers for the next test (MARK 6:45-52)!
 - David recalled his prior miracles against the lion and the bear when facing Goliath (SAMUEL 17:33-37)!

¹⁴Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world" (JOHN 6:14, NKJV).

- Moses wrote about the coming Prophet and the importance of following His lead (DEUTERONOMY 18:17-19)! Jesus said Moses wrote about Him as this Prophet (JOHN 5:41-47). Apostle Peter confirmed that Jesus from Nazareth was this Prophet the Moses predicted (ACTS 4:17-26).