

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Fourteen

IV. Feeding the Hungry: Feeding the Five Thousand (Mark 6:30-44)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how the Lord Jesus had compassion on His hungry followers in the desert and performed a miracle to feed them. In this way His divine power was manifested in His human virtues: through His compassion, long-suffering and uncomplaining attitude, orderliness, unwastefulness and tidiness. What a Savior! The glory and power of God were manifested through the virtues and character of the Man Jesus!

Memory Verse: And they all ate and were satisfied, and they took up the twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish.
Mark 6:42-43

Facts to Teach:

1. The account of the feeding of the five thousand men is recorded in all four gospels. This account shows us many precious details about the Lord Jesus' human virtues and His divine power.
2. The Lord took care of His disciples' need for rest and relaxation by going to a private place in the wilderness. However, great crowds followed them and even arrived at the place before them.
3. Jesus had compassion on them, feeling their need of teaching and guidance. They were like lost, wandering sheep with no shepherd, not knowing God nor His kingdom. The Lord did not care for His weariness or rest. Instead, He taught them "many things" until the hour was "quite late."
4. Realizing that the crowd was hungry, the disciples wanted to send them away to the village to buy food. Jesus also knew that the crowd was hungry, and had compassion on them. He already knew how He would take care of the hunger of every person in the crowd.
5. Jesus asked what food was available from the crowd. This shows us that He wants our cooperation and offering, no matter how small it may seem to be. If we would do nothing nor offer anything, neither would He do anything.
6. He had all the people sit in groups of fifties and one hundreds. This shows His orderliness. It would be hard to know who was fed and who was not in a disorderly crowd of five thousand men. (There was probably about ten thousand people in all, including women and children.)
7. He took what was available, that is, what had been willingly offered: five loaves and two fish. He did not complain about how little there was. Instead, He looked up to heaven, to God, and blessed the dinner, giving thanks for it.
8. He broke the bread and fish and fed everyone. All were satisfied. This was a miracle; five loaves and two fish fed well over five thousand people!
9. The Lord and His disciples did not then lie down and rest after their long day of work. They gathered up the remaining fragments and had much more than what they started with; twelve baskets full! This shows the Lord's human virtues of unwastefulness and tidiness.
10. His divine power and glory were expressed by performing the miracle, which only God could do. His human virtues were expressed in the way He performed the miracle: with compassion, humility, orderliness, thanksgiving, unwastefulness and tidiness. All were expressed in His service for others' needs.

The Ministry of the Lord Jesus

Lesson Fourteen

1. Jesus brought His disciples to the wilderness to work a little more. (Mark 6:31)
 True False
2. The Lord Jesus sent the crowds away to the village to buy some food to eat. (Mark 6:37)
 True False
3. What was given to the Lord to feed the people with? (Mark 6:38)
4. The Lord had the people sit in groups, by _____ and by _____. (Mark 6:39) Why did He do that?
5. How many people were fed by the Lord that day? (Mark 6:44)
6. How was the Lord able to feed so many people with so little food?
7. How many full baskets of fragments were gathered up afterward? (Mark 6:43)
8. List some of the human virtues of the Lord Jesus that were seen in the feeding of the five thousand.