

Matthew 14:13-21 ¹³ When Jesus heard *it*, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. ¹⁴ And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." ¹⁶ But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." ¹⁷ And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ He said, "Bring them here to Me." ¹⁹ Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. ²⁰ So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. ²¹ Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

We had this account for VBS a week ago. After the lesson one of the VBS teachers came to me about the worksheet. There was a true and false statement, "Jesus fed the crowd with 2 loaves, five fish and his Word." Why does the worksheet say this is false, she asked me? We scratched our heads for a while until we realized that it was five loaves and two fish. Might seem like a silly mistake but it is a good thing to ignore the bread and fish for the sake of His Word. That is after all the whole point of the parable.

There Will Be Water Because God Wills It

We actually had this same miracle as our sermon text back in March, but then we were looking at it via the gospel of John. The account in John and the account in Matthew are virtually identical but they do use the account to focus on different lessons. This is due mostly to the context of the account rather than details within the account.

In the gospel of John the account comes after the women at the well, and before a long discussion about how Moses provided manna in the wilderness. All of this highlights how Jesus is the one greater than Moses who gives the spiritual food that is greater than physical food. That is what we focused on back in March.

In Matthew's account, he reminds us about Herod killing John the Baptist as a lead in to this account. Afterwards he records the stilling of the storm, and how Jesus landed in Gennesaret and healed many people there. On top of this in the account Matthew doesn't mention Jesus teach whereas John does. All of this reinforces in our mind the contrast between Jesus the king who cares and provides for his people and Herod as an example of the kings of this earth who rule in selfishness. Jesus who provides and gives and the rulers of this earth who take and kill.

Yes Jesus cares first and foremost about the word. But he also cares enough to give us all that we need for this life

There Will Be Water Because God Wills It

And Jesus does provide for us, everything we need. This is a joyful and wonderful thing because it means that we are free to spend our lives not in service to ourselves but in service to our Lord and our neighbor. Jesus provides what we need we don't have to worry about that so when we work, it isn't in a desperate selfish attempt to make sure that we get more than the other guy, or even in a desperate attempt to make sure we have enough. We can instead let go of our worries about what I need, and always instead consider how this will affect my neighbor.

As a business man, am I selling my customer a good product at a fair price, or am I just trying to get as much as possible out of them

As an employer am I giving my employees a fair wage for their work, or am I getting by with the minimum in order to make sure there is more profit for me

As an employee am I working diligently despite whether I think my employer is giving me a fair wage?

As a citizen am I thankful and supportive of my government paying my fair share of taxes recognizing that not only do I need the service the government provides but so does my neighbor, or am I actively seeking every possible loop hole that I think I can get away with

These are all examples of the way our attitude should change when we remember that we don't have to worry about what we will wear or eat

We have many wonderful examples of a godly attitude towards earthly things in the scripture, but we will stick to three today.

- The Good Samaritan

The first is the Good Samaritan, who did not consider money to be something to be grasped or held on to but freely gave it all up to help his neighbor in need. He didn't foolishly throw it away but he did use it all on this man, unconcerned with what he would eat or where he would sleep.

- Abraham

There are many examples from Abraham's life. How he did not waste it foolishly, but neither did he worry about it. He let Lot choose first, not worried about getting the better land. He didn't consider his cost in going into battle but only Lot, and again afterwards he didn't care about the spoils of war but about Lot. He didn't waste his money but neither did he worry about it, neither did he love it above his neighbor.

- Jesus

It wasn't robbery for Him to have all the wealth of God. Yet He gladly gave it up for us all. While on this earth he didn't stop to think, how can I make money but how can I serve, and then left the problem of food up to God the Father. He Didn't think at all about His goals and dreams but about what He could do for us.

Let this mind be in you: Because God gives you all that you need, you needn't worry about daily food and can instead freely give. Give service to God. Give service to your neighbor.

AMEN

The Peace of God that surpasses all understanding will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus