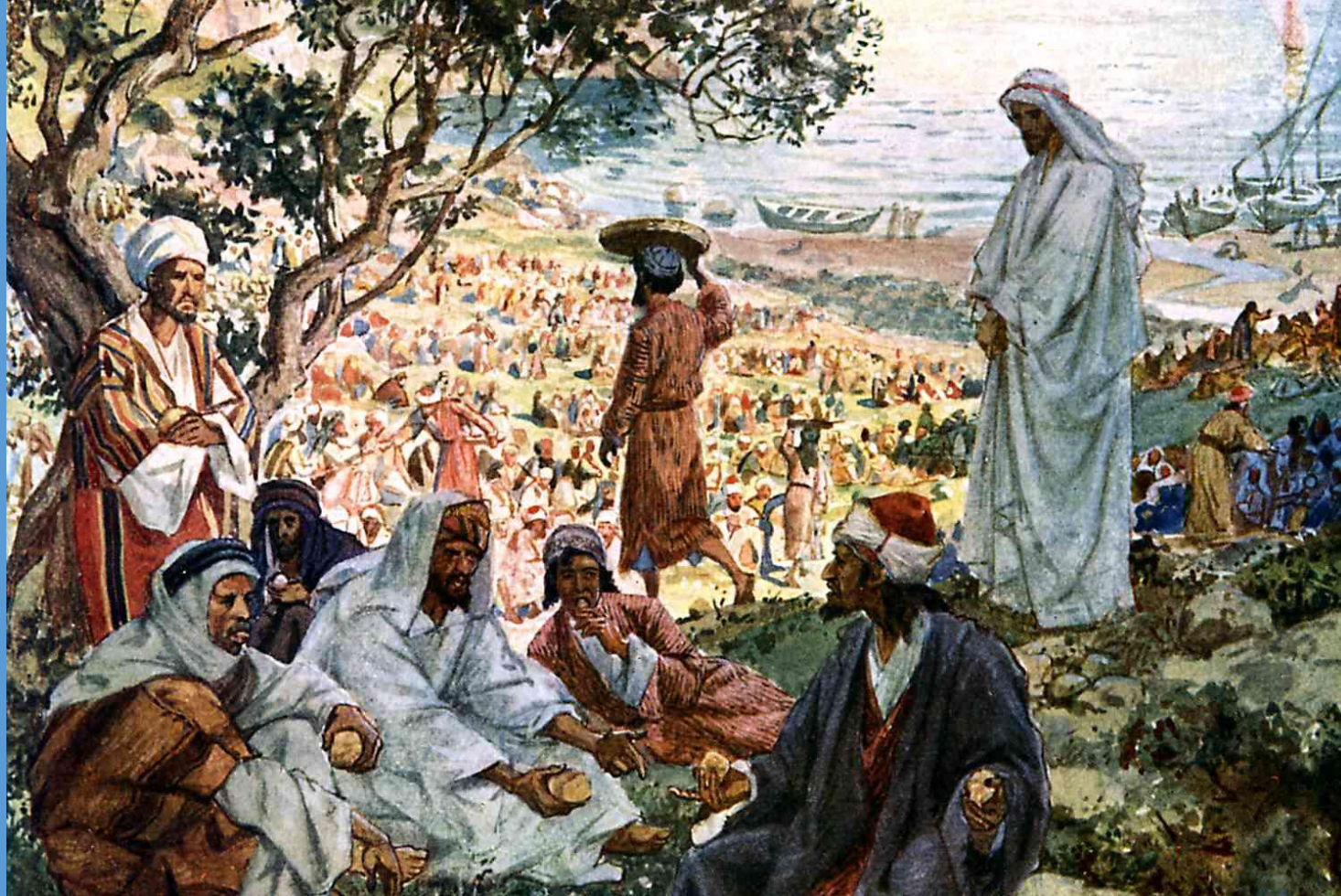




**The Practical and the Impossible:
Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand
(Mark 6:30-44)**



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Introduction:

- What if Jesus just snapped his fingers?

I. The true meaning of “Leisure”

Mark 6:30-32

- ³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught.
- 31 And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.
- 32 And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves.

I. The true meaning of “Leisure”

Mark 6:30-32

- A. Time to rest from and for work
- B. Time for amusement
- C. Time to spend with God

II. A compassionate response to misplaced interests

Mark 6:33-34

- 33 Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.
- 34 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.

II. A compassionate response to misplaced interests

Mark 6:33-34

- A. The crowd seeks healing and political liberation
- B. Jesus offers the Kingdom of God

III. The disciples' leadership style: expediency

Mark 6:35-37

- 35 And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late.
- 36 Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”
- 37 But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?”

IV. The boy who brought his lunch

Mark 6:38 and John 6:8-9

- ³⁸ And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.”
- ⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, ⁹ “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” (John 6:8-9)

IV. The boy who brought his lunch

Mark 6:38 and John 6:8-9

- A. The “Planner”
- B. Willing to give it away
- C. What does he lose or gain?
 - Proverbs 11:24

Proverbs 11:24

- ²⁴ One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;
another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

V. Jesus' leadership style

Mark 6:39-44

- A. Jesus the operations manager (6:39-40)
- B. Blessings flow from above to below (6:41)
- C. The ever-expanding miracle (6:42)
- D. Tupperware spirituality: good stewardship (6:43)
- E. Assessment: feedback vs. the focus (6:44)

A. Jesus the operations manager

Mark 6:39-40

- 39 Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass.
- 40 So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties.

B. Blessings flow from above to below

Mark 6:41

- ⁴¹ And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all.

- James 1:17

James 1:17

- ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

C. The ever-expanding miracle

Mark 6:42

- 42 And they all ate and were satisfied.
- Do we put a limit on God's blessings?
- Is our faith too practical?

D. Tupperware spirituality: good stewardship

Mark 6:43

- 43 And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish.

E. Assessment: feedback vs. the focus

Mark 6:44

- 44 And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men

Takeaways:

1. Come to Jesus, the compassionate shepherd
2. The Church provides both spiritual and physical nourishment
3. Jesus often requires our participation, even with miracles
4. Don't quench the Spirit
5. Be good stewards with what God has provided
6. Compatibilism: keep praying, and keep plowing! (1 Cor. 3:6-9)

I Corinthians 3:6-9

- ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

Let Us Pray

