

# Living With Jesus, The Great Provider

(Part 2)

“When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming towards Him, He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for He already had in mind what He was going to do. Philip answered Him, “Eight months wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” Another of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, He said to His disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.” (John 6:5-13)

Just imagine if you are asked to provide a party for one hundred and fifty persons, what will be your response and how can you manage to feed them? That is a difficult situation! How about if suddenly a guest comes to your house, can you arrange for him a suitable table? This question is easier than the first one but still it is difficult. What we will do if we have only a little and should satisfy many? How can we answer their needs? How can we quickly get the plenty? And the crown of all these questions is this: Who is the provider and through which channel will He give?

In the Gospel, four times was mentioned that Jesus fed a crowd of five thousand, and two times was mentioned that Jesus fed a crowd of four thousand. These emphasized: **First**, Jesus cares, and has compassion toward His people (the crowd). **Second**, it is a common and ordinary matter for the Lord Jesus to feed His people or sheep. And Jesus was repeatedly doing it whenever needs arise.

As we study the miracle from the above passages we find the same question rose in the mind of Jesus’ disciples. The Lord Himself put the question in their front, **when he saw the great crowd coming toward Him. He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for He already had in mind what he was going to do.** The Lord also raised such question to us not only to test us, but to teach us how to give the proper answer. And the disciples failed to answer Jesus because:

**1) They rely on human mathematics:** “Philip answered Him, “Eight months wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” Human computations and economists cannot do it. Even to the maximum, their solutions will end up in not more than a poor bite.

**2) They rely on human knowledge:** Man’s comprehension is limited, resulting worrying or discontent. We need much but we have only little. “Another of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” To some extent, the disciples were right because no baker can provide much fresh bread to such a crowd at once.

**3) They underrate the Lord’s wisdom:** Jesus is always unique in His ways. He uses the fools to shame the wise. He loves the insignificant, the outcast or those at the border of the society. In the passage, the boy was the youngest available person the Lord used to bless His people. The Lord has all the wisdom in using little things. Here, Jesus used “**five small barley loaves and two small fish,**” to feed a large crowd. People are always attracted to some great person or things. But the Lord never despised the least. Let me ask, *what simple things or few resources do you have that you are belittling?* Again, don’t wait for the Lord to put you to shame.

**4) They failed to seek God, the Great Provider:** The disciples had witnessed how Jesus provided wine for the wedding at Cana. The five thousand were in need of food but they neglected the great Provider who was with

them. When things go wrong, we behave the same. We forget to pray, to give thanks to God, and ask from Him our needs. (Philippians 4:6) Instead, we grumble and neglect our duties for the Lord. We fail to remember how God provided manna for His people in the wilderness. Jesus provided food to the crowd and satisfied their needs.

**5) They failed to recognize Jesus as the channel of blessing:** The multiplication of the bread and fish happened on the hands of Jesus, “Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were in seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.” Many people ask God their needs but they don’t pray in the name of Jesus. (John 14:13)

People tend to gratify their own needs by their own means and ways but they are never satisfied. Jesus is the Great Provider. To live and dine with Him we will experience great differences:

**1-We shall have Joy:** At the place where Jesus arranged the banquet for His people, there was plenty of grass. The green grass gave to the people the feeling of joy, peace and quite atmosphere. Surely, they ate with joy and peace.

**2-We will not toil:** There would be no hard work. Everything will be prepared by the Lord, “**Make the people sit down... and the men sat down,**” and the food was distributed to them by the disciples. The crowd spent their effort only to eat.

**3-We will have it to the full:** With Jesus provision, we would be completely filled: “**All had enough to eat as much as they wanted.**” As Jesus said, “**I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.**” (John 10:10b) With Jesus, we will be satisfied. We will not look for another banquet neither we ask for snack.

The best who described the above points about Jesus is King David, when he spoke about Him: “**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in wants. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quite waters,... You prepare a table before me...**” (Psalm 23:1,2 &5)

Two more things this miracle will teach us: First, our Lord does not like us to waste; “*Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.*” When He is blessing us, we should not squander His grace. The Lord Jesus after feeding the crowd, He asked to keep the extra food, maybe for the people who later may follow Him. “**So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.**” Number twelve represents the twelve tribes of Israel, and spiritually represents the multitude all over the world that constitutes the people of God who believe and follow Jesus. For them He kept the bread of life that gives eternal life.

We used the same miracle to define the divine nature of Jesus and in this message we described many points in this miracle that we can apply in our lives. But, still we cannot describe the goodness of the Lord and His abundant blessings. *My Dear and Beloved:* What happened in this miracle is still happening today to those who accept the Lord Jesus in their lives. Jesus is alive, He is the good shepherd, He is the bread-the Provision, and He is the Provider. Don’t be reluctant. Follow Him and He will give you joy and make you filled and satisfied as you agree to pray.

*My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I repent of all my sins. Today I put all my trust and confidence on you. I will not look on any man that might help, but only on you who will provide for me all my needs. Lord from this day onward I will not put my mind on any difficult events or circumstances that might come across my life, but I will fix my eyes on you and on your mighty power and abundant grace. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*

1 Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.  
2 John 14:13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.