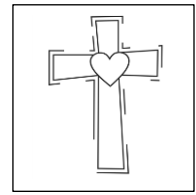


Perley Lutheran Parish
August 2nd
Lectionary 18



Welcome and Announcements

- Wonderful time last Sunday at the outdoor worship service – 27 of us gathered (at a distance of course)
- Devotions happening on Wednesday evenings at 7pm – Where’s Michele is going well – don’t forget to send in your guesses on where she is at – perleyparish@gmail.com or 218-861-6541 or text/call Michele at 701-261-0998 mjenson001@luthersem.edu. The last Where’s Michele will be Wednesday, August 12th.
- Next Sunday – August 9th – Outdoor worship at Kirkebo 9AM. Bring a chair 😊 Communion will be served.
- We continue to monitor the COVID crisis and watch for implementation of our Re-Opening Plan
- Continue to send in your offerings. Keep in touch – if you need something please reach out and invite friends to watch!

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation, to generation. Amen

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin

Reconciling God,

We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness in life. Amen

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through +Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of the Day

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 (Read Responsively)

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. **The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made** The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. **The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.** You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. **The LORD is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.** The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. **He fulfills the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.** The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. **My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever**

First Reading Isaiah 55:1-5

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and

commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 14:13-21, **Glory to you O Lord**

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message

A paper bag with five peanut butter crackers and a couple of pieces of fruit.

Scripture

They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. Matthew 14:20 (NIV)

Are you hungry? I am! Sometimes I get really hungry during church. What would you think if we had a little snack this morning instead of a children's sermon? I brought a bag with my snack in it. Let's see what is in here. Oh my, We have a problem. All I have is five peanut butter crackers and a couple of pieces of fruit. I don't think there is any way that would be enough to feed all of you. Let's see. (Start counting the children.) One, two, three, four, five... no way. There just isn't enough for all of you.

That reminds me of something that happened to Jesus and his disciples one day. Jesus and his disciples were very tired and needed some time to relax. They got into a boat and went away to a quiet place to rest. When they reached their destination, there were people there waiting for Jesus. The Bible tells us that there were Five thousand men and who knows how many women and children! They wanted Jesus to teach them and heal the sick. Jesus needed to rest, but when he saw the people, he loved them so much that he forgot all about being tired. He healed the sick and taught the people about the kingdom of heaven.

Soon it was time to eat. The disciples went to Jesus and said, "It is getting late and we are hungry. Send the people away so that we can go and get something to eat."

Jesus answered, "They don't need to go away," Jesus said, "you feed them."

"Feed them? How can we feed them? We have five loaves of bread and two small fish. That is all the food we have."

Jesus told the disciples bring him the loaves and fish and to tell everyone to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the loaves and fish and looked up to heaven and gave thanks. He then gave the food to the disciples to give to the people.

If I were to share my snack with you today, there might be enough for each of you to have one tiny bite. But when Jesus blessed the loaves and fish, the Bible says that everyone ate until they were full! Wait! That's not all! After they had eaten until they were full, they gathered up the leftovers and there were twelve baskets full. Can you imagine taking these five crackers and two cookies and feeding everyone here today and still having food left over? We couldn't do it, but God could.

What can we learn from this Bible lesson today? We learn that when we give what we have to God, he can take it, bless it, and do more than we could ever imagine. Even though we may not have very much, little becomes much when it is placed in God's hands.

Dear Father, just as Jesus used the lunch of a small boy to feed more than five thousand people, we pray that you will use the boys and girls here today to bless everyone they meet each day. Amen.

Message

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

OK, it's time for me to be totally honest. I am a foodie! I really like to cook and bake and like to eat even more. Most of my life that wasn't an issue – I kept my girlish figure through it all but 10 years ago when I found out I was going to be a grandma I decided it was time to quit smoking, I know I am much healthier than I ever was as a smoke but now 40 pounds later – here I am. Now like some of you, I have tried many different things to be healthier and thinner – I have gone to Weight Watchers, I have tried Profile, I even subjected myself to be weighed on KVLV TV LIVE each week for 6 weeks during their local contest - The Biggest Loser. If you looked at me now you wouldn't believe that I actually won the contest with a friend of mine, would you? So many times those of us that deal with weight issues teeter totter back and forth – we lose then we gain it back, we lose again and then we gain it back again (and then some). I remember one of my weight coaches one time saying "It's important to stop eating when you are satisfied." Satisfied?? I know they meant to listen to your body and stop eating when you are starting to feel full. I also remember my grandmother saying there were starving children in Africa and you didn't waste food on your plate.

This morning, if it isn't obvious, we are going to look at what it means to be satisfied in Jesus – satisfied physically and spiritually. Jesus feeding the 5,000 and Jesus walking on water are probably the best known story of miracles that Jesus does while he is among us. This story is one that almost all of us could tell others about. We were taught them at a very young age and because of the miracle that Jesus did it is unforgettable in our minds. Just like the moral of the story was back when we were kids – the moral continues to be that God continues to be a God of abundance.

Our Gospel this morning has us seeing and hearing about the crowds that were following and following and following and how the day was getting late. While the disciples are hoping that Jesus is going to stand up and tell everyone to "go on home now" – after all they are hungry and just want some down time together and a nice meal - that's clearly not the plan of Jesus. He looks at them point blank and says "you give them something to eat." Remember, we are not talking a handful of people that Jesus is instructing them to feed – we are talking at a minimum about 5,000 people. To put that into perspective – the Scheels Arena in Fargo seats 6,000 – so imagine a packed Fargo Force hockey game or a sold-out concert – and you look around and wonder how you will ever make that happen. First remember that our Gospel writer Matthew tells us that they fed 5,000 men – but guess what? There were women and children there as well so 5,000 is definitely not a real or accurate number. Also remember that all of these thousands have been walking and following Jesus all day – in the fresh air, on dusty and dry walkways – and I'm pretty sure are quite hungry.

So you look around to the magnitude of people gathered and what do you have to feed them – well five loaves of bread and two fish. They look at Jesus in their human perspective as if to say "how in the world are we supposed to feed all of these people with this little bit that we have?" I think that might be my response

had I been there too, and probably your response too? No matter how creative you get in the dividing of what you have – there is simply no way – I don't care how big those loaves or fish are – no way that you can provide a satisfying meal to all these people. Remember however that Jesus doesn't work in our world and through our limited human understanding. Jesus also doesn't make them look and feel foolish for thinking this way but rather gives them comfort and seeks their help in feeding this crowd. Not only does Jesus provide for all of those people but he also encourages and challenges the disciples to minister with him and help to feed the people through the miracle he has done.

Jesus provide physically – by feeding the thousands who have gathered, pastorally – by giving and showing the love and comfort and grace and fellowship and finally by satisfying their hunger to be forgiven. Jesus satisfied them with what they needed most and the Bible says they all ate and were filled or as we have been discussing - satisfied.

In the original translation of the word satisfied – in Greek – their word actually means two different things. First it means to become full – how we are satisfied and our stomachs are filled with food – in this case fish and bread. They ate enough in our story that they were satisfied and still there was enough left-overs to gather and fill twelve baskets. Jesus provided enough to fill every person that had gathered AND some extras besides.

The second meaning of the word satisfied translates into “experiencing inward satisfaction.” A more, deeper satisfaction in our attitude, our general outlook on life and our gratitude for what we have. Jesus isn't just filling our bodies then, he is filling our souls as well. They were being satisfied and filled by Jesus – so filled that they would no longer need to look elsewhere for their hunger and spiritual needs.

Something to note – Jesus said to the disciples - when they questioned how he would satisfy all these people with the little that he had – simply “Bring them here to me.” That's essentially what he is saying to you and me as well. God has given us all the food and the drink we want and need. He has brought us into the amazing and wonderful family and the kingdom of God through the forgiveness of sins and the sharing of a common meal.

In closing I'm going to share with you a funny little tale that helps to illustrate what our point has been this morning. It goes like this:

In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth and populated the Earth with broccoli, cauliflower and spinach, green and yellow and red vegetables of all kinds, so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives.

Then using God's great gifts, Satan created Dairy Queen Ice Cream and Sandy's Donuts. And Satan said, “You want chocolate with that?” And Man said, “Yes!” and Woman said, “And as long as you're at it, let's add some sprinkles.” And they gained 10 pounds; and Satan smiled.

And Satan brought forth white flour from the wheat and sugar from the cane and combined them. And Man and Woman went from size 6 and Medium to size 14 and XL.

So God said, “Try my fresh green salad.” And Satan presented Thousand-Island Dressing, buttery croutons and garlic toast on the side. And Man and Woman unfastened their belts.

God then said, “I have sent you heart-healthy vegetables and olive oil in which to cook them.” And Satan brought forth deep fried fish and chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter. And Man gained more weight and his cholesterol went through the roof.

God then created a light, fluffy white cake, named it “Angel Food Cake,” and said, “It is good.” Satan then created chocolate cake and named it “Devil's Food.”

God then brought forth running shoes so that His children might lose those extra pounds. And Satan gave cable TV with a remote control, so Man would not have to toil changing the channels. And Man and Woman laughed and cried before the flickering blue light and gained pounds.

Then God brought forth the potato, naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition. And Satan peeled off the healthful skin and sliced the starchy center into chips and deep-fried them. And woman and man gained pounds.

God then gave lean beef so that Man might consume fewer calories and still satisfy his appetite. And Satan created McDonald's and its 99-cent double cheeseburger. Then he said, “You want fries with that?” And Man replied, “Yes! And super-size them!” And Satan said, “It is good.” And Man went into cardiac arrest.

God sighed and created quadruple bypass surgery. Then Satan created Cuts to the Health Care System, and yearly increased our premiums.

I thought you'd get a chuckle from this however in all seriousness, there is a lesson I'd like to point out to you. In this silly – but ironically true at times - story, man and woman are always looking for more; we're often not satisfied with that which God provides. Instead, we often want to binge on things we don't need. Things that in the end, never really even satisfy our appetites anyways.

There are thousands and thousands of people starving for something and I'm not necessarily talking about food. In reality, they're starving for that which only Jesus can provide — spiritually speaking. As people, we want — no, we actually almost crave — spiritual satisfaction. We want to feel God filling our souls and our lives. And yet, so many walk away from rather than come to the one who can satisfy their hunger and thirst. It's time for us to look at things differently – to stop focusing on our needs and rather offer prayers of thanks for what we do have. To not look to earthly things and earthly people but rather to our God who is a God of abundance – a God that satisfies and a God that is all that we truly need to be filled. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service.

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need.
Who upon the cross forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed.
We, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart.
Consecrating to your purpose every gift which you impart.

As we worship, grant us visions til your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight.
Making know the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear.
Stirring us to ardent service, Your abundant life to share.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will

come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the people (Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**)

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

You take resources that appear to be meager, bless them, and there is enough. May your church trust that what you bless and ask us to share with the world is abundantly sufficient. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

You offer yourself to all the nations and peoples of the earth, inviting everyone to abundant life. Bring the prophetic vision to fullness, that all nations will run to you and that nations who do not know you will find their joys in you. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Hear the anguish of tender hearts who cry to you in suffering and satisfy their deepest needs. Bring wholeness and healing to those who suffer in body, heart, soul and mind. Heal those within our congregations and friends of our members like Alana and Jeff and Kirk and all those that join us through streaming who are in need of peace and healing. We ask that you be with those that we now name in our hearts as well..... Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

You offer freely the fullness of salvation. Give our congregations such a welcoming heart, that our words and actions may extend your free and abundant hospitality to all whom we encounter. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Protecting God, we have created divisions you will not own. In places of conflict – be it from safe practices because of COVID or from racial disparity. God of mercy, your grace is poured out for all. Inspire authorities and politicians to act with compassion. Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

God of community, we give thanks for these congregations. Give us passion to embrace your mission and the vision to recognize when you are leading us. Teach us how live more faithfully and fully with each other. Hear us, O God. **Hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you, and be with us now as we say the prayer that Jesus taught to us....

Our father who art in heaven hallowed be Thy name

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power

and the glory forever and ever. Amen

Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, +Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

Amen

Sending Hymn: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing #499 Vs 1 & 3

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore thee; May I still thy goodness prove.

Oh to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander Lord I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart oh take and seal it; Seal it for thy courts above.

Dismissal

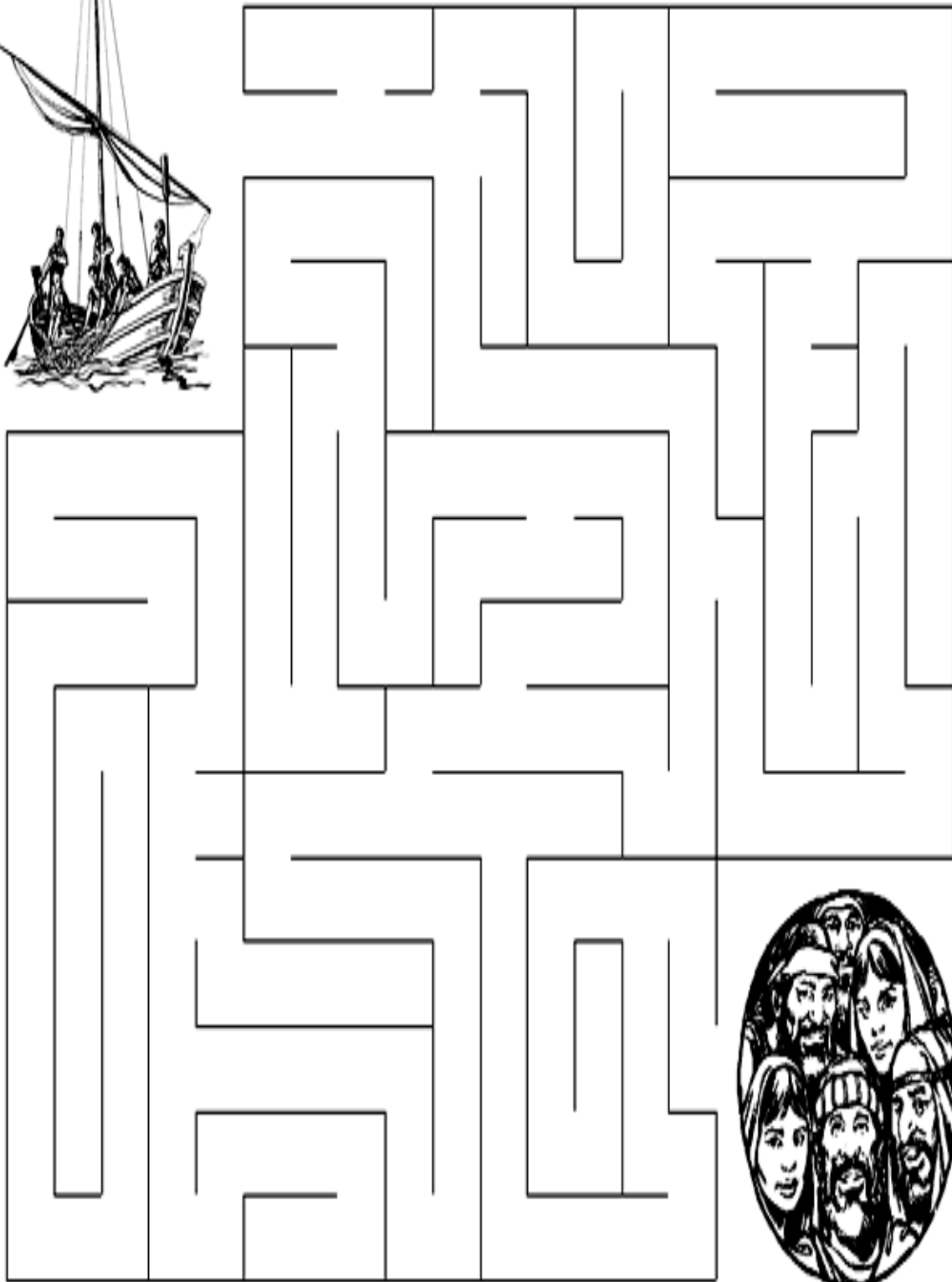
Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Intern Michele Jenson: Phone: 701-261-0998 Email: mjenson001@luthersem.edu Web Page: www.perleyparish.org Email: perleyparish@gmail.com



Jesus feeds 5,000

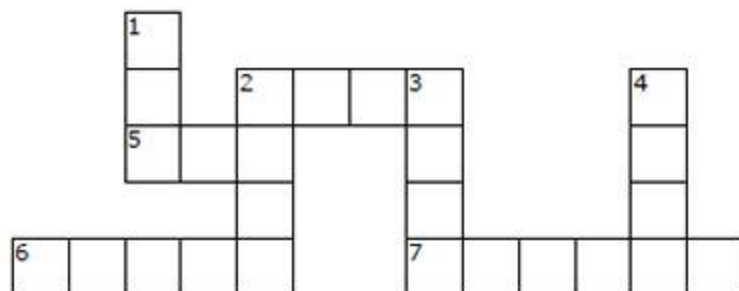
Jesus Feeds the Multitudes Maze



Jesus Feeds The Five Thousand

They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.
Matthew 14:20 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 14:13-21 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. An animal without legs that lives in water
5. The number equal to one plus one
6. A basic food made from flour, water, and yeast mixed together and baked
7. Pieces of bread shaped and baked in a single piece and sliced for eating

DOWN

1. To take food into your mouth, chew, and swallow it
2. What we eat to give us energy and to help us grow strong bodies
3. To cure someone of illness or disease; to make someone well again
4. The number that comes after four and before six

FIVE
FISH

BREAD
LOAVES

EAT
FOOD

TWO
HEAL

Jesus Feeds The Five Thousand

They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.
Matthew 14:20 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 14:13-21 (NIV)



Q W L O A V E S P L T H J E B
R Y T G B V G S B X O A H T A
F I S H L A N D E D W U S Q S
B X E E J T B Q A P N I A J K
J B W I F K H O O I S A T W E
F T L W T Z N A A Q L G I C T
O U A L B K Z O N T S S S T F
L P T Q F I P K X K P B F M U
L F E J H E A L E D S E I Z L
O O C Q T T M L S C L F E C S
W O G R J E S U S C L B D W C
E T M F O Q S F O O D D J T A
D Q G B J W E I Y M H E H P V
D A V B U T D C C P E O P L E
R P G S A V K S H K I F Q K U

LEFT	BASKETFULS	LANDED	FOLLOWED	LOAVES
THANKS	CROWDS	TWELVE	HEALED	FISH
ATE	FOOD	SATISFIED	JESUS	SICK
FOOT	PEOPLE	LATE	TOWNS	BOAT