1 - **Lessons About Evangelism From The Feeding Of The 5000**

**John 6:1-4**

**2 - The Feeding Of The Five Thousand - Mark 6:33-44**

*“When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and* ***He felt compassion for them*** *because they were like* ***sheep without a shepherd****; and* ***He began to teach them many things****.”
(*Mark 6:34)

Luke adds, *“But the crowds were aware of this and followed Him; and* ***welcoming them****,* ***He began speaking to them about the kingdom of God*** *and curing those who had need of healing.”* (Luke 9:11)

We can’t separate His miracles from His teaching.

3 - **The Feeding Of The Five Thousand - Mark 6:33-44**

It’s late in the day (*“****already quite late****”*, vs. 35; *“t****he day was ending****”*, Luke 9:12) and the disciples came to Jesus:

*“…****send them away so that they may… buy themselves something to eat****.”* (vs. 36)

*“****They do not need to go away****;* ***you give them something to eat!”*** (Matthew 14:16; Mark 6:37)

4 - **The Feeding Of The Five Thousand - Mark 6:33-44**

What is the mindset of the disciples? *“****Shall we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread and give them something to eat****?”* (vs. 37)

Jesus’ response: No! *“****How many loaves do you have? Go look****!”* (vs. 38)

Jesus expects His disciples to first consider what they could do and what they had available.
(cf., 2 Corinthians 8:12)

They didn’t know but went and ***“found out****”* and said, *“five loaves and two fish.”* (vs. 38)

**5 - The Feeding Of The Five Thousand - Mark 6:33-44**

Could Jesus simply have spoken enough bread and fish into existence to feed the multitude?

Yes, but He had these other lessons to teach.

**Lesson #1**

Use what God has blessed you with. Don’t focus on what you don’t have, recognize & appreciate what you do have, and use it to serve the Lord the best you can! (cf., Matthew 25:22-23)

**6 - The Feeding Of The Five Thousand - Mark 6:33-44**

After commanding the multitude to sit in groups of fifties and hundreds (6:39-40), *“****looking up toward heaven****,* ***He******blessed the food****”* (6:41). John adds “*having* ***given thanks***.” (6:11)

Keep ***“looking up”***! Recognize the Father as the source of all good things in life. (James 1:16-17; *“…****every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above****, coming down from the Father of lights.”;* cf., Acts 27:35)

In *“looking up toward heaven”* there is: Praise, honor, thankfulness, & humility

**7 - The Feeding Of The Five Thousand - Mark 6:33-44**

The role of the apostles wasn’t over: Jesus directed the apostles to serve to the multitude. *“He blessed them and broke them, and* ***kept giving them to the disciples to set before the people****.”* (Mark 6:41)

***“Set before”*** - This word is normally used in a spiritual sense!

“To set before (one) in teaching.” (Thayer) (2 Timothy 2:2, *“****\*entrust* (*commit****;* ASV; NKJV) ***these to faithful men****”*; Matthew 13:24, 31; Acts 17:3 & 20:32)

Jesus’ great commission to the apostles: (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16) in which He gave to the disciples that which they needed to ***“set before the people”*** in their preaching and teaching.

8 - **The Feeding Of The Five Thousand - Mark 6:33-44**

The result:

*“They* ***all ate and were satisfied****.”* (“to gorge (**supply food in abundance**”, Vine); (6:42; Matthew 5:6; Philippians 4:12)

They ended with more than what they started with. *“They* ***picked up twelve full baskets*** *of the broken pieces, and also of the fish.”* (6:43)

Jesus made, what they found they had, accomplish far **beyond what they thought possible**. (Ephesians 3:20-21; 2 Cor. 9:8-12)

9 - **The Feeding Of The Five Thousand - Mark 6:33-44**

What is expected of us as servants and soldiers of Jesus Christ?

1. **Start where you are**. (Genesis 39:1-3, 19-21;
**1 Samuel 17:31ff**; Isaiah 6:8; Daniel 1; Acts 8:35)
2. **Use what you have**. (Exodus 4:2; 14:16;
Judges 7:16-18; **1 Samuel 17:40**; Matthew 25:22;
Acts 3:6, *“…what I do have I give to you.”;
2 Corinthians 8:5*)
3. **Do what you can**. (1 Samuel 17:45; Mark 14:8; Matthew 10:42; 25:27; Acts 16:33)

10 - **The Feeding Of The Five Thousand - Mark 6:33-44**

The multitude knew how much food Jesus and the apostles started with and ended with.

*“Therefore when* ***the people saw the sign*** *which He had performed, they said, ‘T****his is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world****.’”*(John 6:14)

***“Sign”*** - attesting and distinguishing.

***“The prophet”*** - (Deuteronomy 18:15-19; John 1:21; 7:40ff)

11 - **The Feeding Of The Five Thousand - Mark 6:33-44**

Jesus, knowing the hearts of men was *“perceiving that* ***they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.****”* (6:15)

***“By force”*** - “**to seize**, **carry off by force**.” (Acts 23:10;
cf., John 10:28-29)

His omniscience not only included their general intentions but their specific ones including **what kind of *“King”*** they wanted Him to be. (6:26; *“…you seek Me… because you ate of the loaves and were filled.”*)