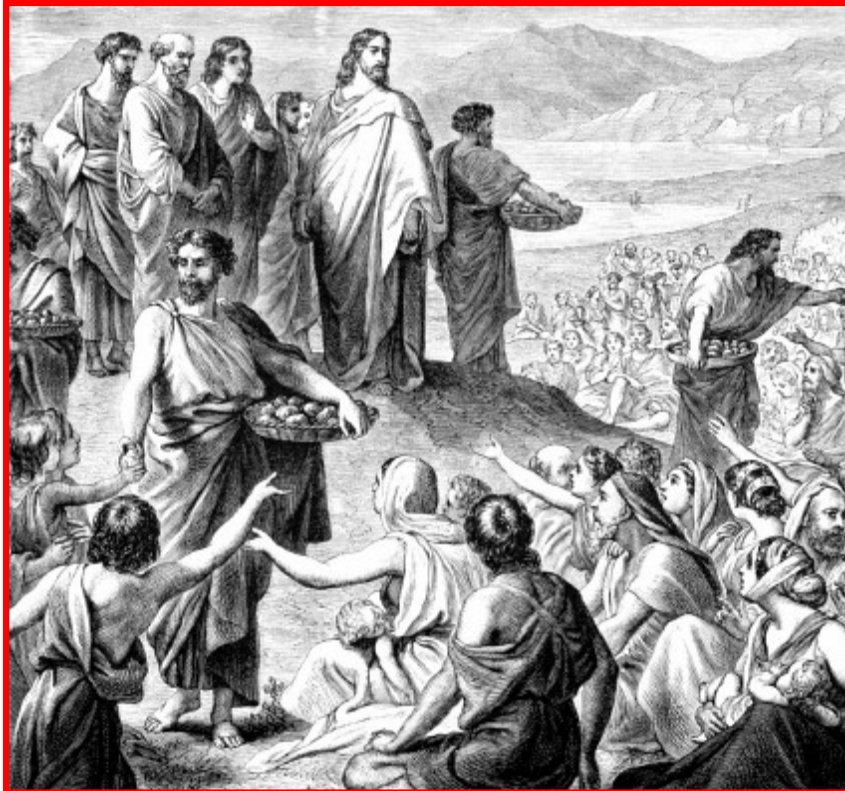


Lesson 22

Pictures of Jesus

The Provider of our Needs



Matthew 14:13-21 | The feeding of the five thousand.

Matthew 15:32-38 | The feeding of the four thousand.

Matthew 15:32 | “I (*Jesus*) have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry or they may collapse on the way.”

Just as Jesus fed many who came to hear Him, He still feeds us and provides for all of our needs every day. Jesus’ love did not die on the cross, it grew from the cross to cover the whole earth.

When Jesus traveled from town to town preaching the good news of salvation (forgiveness of sins), many large crowds gathered to hear Him. Sometimes these people would be with Jesus for many hours or even days. Whatever food they may have had with them would be used up and the people would be hungry. Since they had to walk back to their homes, and some may have had to walk a long way, they might faint from hunger.

Jesus did not want the people who came to hear His message to become sick from not eating. Not only would Jesus provide for the health of their souls, He would also provide for the health of their bodies. Jesus would feed these people Himself.

In the two Bible stories above, Jesus would have to provide food for very large numbers of people. This was not like sharing His food with a few friends. Jesus would be sharing His food with five thousand people the first time and four thousand people the second time.

What food did Jesus have to share with these people? To feed the five thousand people Jesus had five loaves of bread and two fish. To

feed the four thousand people Jesus had seven loaves of bread and a few fish. How could so little food feed so many people? It would take a miracle.

Jesus is God and God can do anything. Jesus blessed the bread and the fish and then had His disciples pass them out to the people. A miracle of God's love happened and there was enough food to feed everyone. There was so much food that there was even plenty left over.

When God provides for our needs, He gives generously. God's love is so great that it can fill everyone and still have plenty left over. What a wonderful picture of Jesus.

PRAYER TIME

We thank you Jesus for saving us from our sins and also taking care of our needs. You are always watching out for us and giving us all we need. Help us to always remember this and thank You for Your great kindness. Amen