



# Miracles: Feeding the 5,000

Exodus 16:1-15, 31-35 Isaiah 55:1-3 Luke 9:10-17

April 22, 2018

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The **Miracles of Jesus** are “signs” that teach us that He is **sent from God**; “signs” that His **Word and Promises** are true, “signs” that He has the **power and authority** to do what He says. *The miracles of Jesus are “signs” that validate His teaching.*

In the New Testament, Jesus performs **37 miracles**; these miracles show His power over **creation, disease, demons, and death**. Of those 37 miracles, **ONLY ONE** is told in all four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). It is the Feeding of the 5,000. This **ONE** miracle stands out above the rest; there is something **special, unique, and significant** about this **ONE** particular miracle.

The Feeding of the 5,000 is a **Messianic miracle** that connects Jesus to the Old Testament prophecies **and** anticipates the New Testament promises.

When Jesus fed the 5,000, He was in the wilderness area north of the Sea of Galilee. The Bible says that Jesus fed 5,000 “men”; the number doesn’t include their families. The number could actually be much higher. The miracle was reminiscent of Moses feeding the people manna and quail in the Old Testament times. **Jesus is the promised prophet “like Moses” who speaks the very words of God** (Dt 18:18). The miracle of the food in the wilderness connects Jesus to Moses and is meant for people to **listen and believe** what He says.

The day after this miracle, Jesus preached about it. In that sermon He said,

[Jesus said,] For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. ... Then Jesus declared, "I am the **BREAD OF LIFE**. He who comes to me will **never go hungry**, and he who believes in me will **never be thirsty**. John 6:33, 35

**Jesus is the Bread of Life that we all need.  
The “Bread of Life” is an image of salvation!**

In this metaphor of the “Bread of Life”, sin is seen as starving to death. It’s not literally “starving” because of lack of physical food, but spiritually starving to death because of a lack of relationship with the one true God. **Life without Christ is a famine in your life that will eventually kill you.** There is no life apart from your Creator. Sin leaves you without God. Sin separates you from God’s will and His Word. Sin leads you to crave the “spoiled food” and “poisoned water” that the world has to offer. In sin, you “starve” to death on a diet of pride and idolatry, lust and sexual immorality, greed, coveting, and envy; you die in false teachings and pagan theories. A life without Christ is “starving to death”.

**Jesus said that He is the “Bread of Life” that came down from Heaven and gives life to the world.**

Only Christ can give you life.

Only Christ can reconcile you with your Creator.

Only Christ can eternally satisfy your body & soul, spirit & life.

In the Feeding of the 5,000, Jesus is shown -- “revealed” in all four Gospels -- to be the One sent by God to bring eternal life into the world.

Through faith in Christ, you will **never go hungry**, and you **will never be thirsty**. This is spiritual hunger and thirsting. It means that you are filled with the good things of God – starting with the forgiveness of your sins and eternal life! In Christ, you are given peace, hope, joy, grace, and mercy. Your sins are forgiven, your guilt is removed, and your relationship with God is restored. In Christ, you lack no good thing. In Christ, you have a full life and are satisfied. **Jesus promises that He who believes has eternal life, and Jesus Himself will raise you up on the Last Day!**

**Jesus is the “Bread of Life” that came down from Heaven and gives life to the world.** The miracle of the food in the wilderness connects Jesus to Moses and is meant for people to [listen and believe](#) what He says.

Today, listen to Him and believe His words and promises. Turn away from any thoughts or attitudes that are contrary to God’s Holy Word. Abandon false teachings and pagan theories. Take your thoughts under control and submit them to Holy Scripture. There is no life in the things of the world. **Eternal life is found only in Jesus, the Bread of Life, who came down from Heaven. Only Jesus can satisfy you and give you the good things of God!**

Just as Moses fed the Israelites manna in the wilderness, Jesus now feeds all people the gift of eternal life.

Jesus is “**the BREAD OF LIFE.**  
**Whoever believes in Him will never go hungry,**  
**And Whoever trusts in Him will never be thirsty!**  
**Believe it, and you will live forever!**

In both the miracles of the manna in the wilderness in the Old Testament, and the miracle of feeding the 5,000 people in the New Testament, God was providing food for His people on their journey. He does the same thing for you as well in these New Testament times. **God provides food for you on your “journey” to Heaven.**

We are not talking about physical food that you get in grocery stores, but we are talking about Holy Communion. **Holy Communion is the miraculous food that Jesus provides for you that sustains you in your journey to Heaven. The bread and the fish in the miracle of the 5,000 remind us of the bread and the wine in the Lord’s Supper.**

In Holy Communion you “take and eat” and “take and drink” the body of Jesus for eternal life. Here in this Sacrament, the Lord forgives your sins and assures you that you have eternal life now, and you will rise from the dead on the Last Day!

Holy Communion is **NO simple “memory of Jesus” NOR** is it just a **nice “warm fuzzy” so that you can feel good.**

This is a holy meal where you receive the very real presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in bread and wine. This is a miracle where Christ’s body and blood --- the same exact body and blood that was “given and shed for you” on the cross and rose from the dead on the third day --- is now **GIVEN TO YOU** in this meal of eternal life.

This is our “Manna”;

This is Jesus feeding us in the wilderness and giving us *eternal life*.

This is one place where you eat the Bread of Life and live forever!

Sustained by this sacramental food, we live holy lives through faith in Christ. We listen and obey what Jesus says. The miracles are “signs” that His Word and promises are true and trustworthy. We hear His Word and obey. We hear His promises and trust them.

One promise that He makes to you is that He will provide your **daily bread**. He promises to provide all that you need to support your body and life. He does this through other people being faithful in their vocations. God feeds you, clothes you, heals you, and protects you through other people. In the same way, when you are faithful in your vocations --- all those areas of your life for which you have duties and responsibilities – God works through you to provide daily bread for other people. God’s Word is trustworthy and true: he will provide your daily bread!

The feeding of the 5,000 is the **only** miracle recorded by all four Gospels! It stands out. Jesus is revealed as the promised Messiah of the Old Testament, **He is the Bread of Life, who came down from Heaven and gives life to the world! We are to listen, believe, and obey His words and his promises!**

AMEN!