

THE GOSPEL OF MARK "5000"

DOING FOR VS. BEING WITH

*The life of the disciple is not only a mission for Jesus but a mission with Jesus.

***How many just do what he says without getting to know who said to do it?**

POLITICAL CLIMATE

*The political climate at the time was volatile in Galilee under Roman rule, and the undercurrent of Zealot sympathies. There were 5000 men mentioned, men looking for a leader for their cause. The direct test of Jesus' attitude to Zealot beliefs (Mark 12:13-17) and in light of the charge on which Jesus was eventually executed (Mark 15:2,26). John tells of Jesus rapid escape (John 6:15) and his packing off the disciples before they could be infected (Mark 6:45).

COMPASSIONATE SHEPHERD

*Israel's need for a Shepherd to lead them. Numbers 27:17, 1 Kings 22:17, 2 Chronicles 18:16, Jeremiah 31:10, Ezekiel 34:5,8, Zechariah 10:2, 13:7.

*Promise of God that he would one day provide a shepherd to do so Ezekiel 34:23

*Jesus thought of himself as a shepherd - Mark 14:27, John 10:1-18, 27-28, Hebrews 13:20-21, 1 Peter 2:25, 5:1-4

THE POWER OF THE MIRACLE

*They ate and were satisfied—The most frequent biblical images of the joy of the age to come is a banquet, where people could eat as much as they wanted. Isaiah 25:6-9

*There was quantity of the leftovers - 12 baskets full. Imagine each disciple carrying a basket, pondering on what just happened here as they put the baskets back in the boat.

*The amount of people fed - 5000 men (not counting the woman and children) thus emphasizing the exceptional nature of the miracle. This mighty work of Jesus makes Elisha's feeding of 100 people with 20 loaves (2 Kings 4:42-44, feeding by Elijah in 1 Kings 17:8-16) seem almost trivial. Jesus feeds fifty times more with one fourth of what Elisha had and has a greater supply of leftovers.

**People needed a Shepherd
but they wanted a King.**

Mark 6:30-45 (NIV)

⁽³⁰⁾The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ⁽³¹⁾Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." ⁽³²⁾So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. ⁽³³⁾But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ⁽³⁴⁾When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. ⁽³⁵⁾By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. ⁽³⁶⁾Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." ⁽³⁷⁾But he answered, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "That would take eight months of a man's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?" ⁽³⁸⁾"How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five--and two fish." ⁽³⁹⁾Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁽⁴⁰⁾So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁽⁴¹⁾Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁽⁴²⁾They all ate and were satisfied, ⁽⁴³⁾and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. ⁽⁴⁴⁾The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand. ⁽⁴⁵⁾Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

John 6:14-15 (NIV)

⁽¹⁴⁾After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." ⁽¹⁵⁾Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

Ezekiel 34:23 (NIV)

⁽²³⁾I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd.