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**CHAPTER 52**
**Feeding Thousands With a Few Loaves and Fish**

(Matthew 14:13-21) At hearing this, Jesus departed from there by boat into an isolated place to be alone. But the crowds, getting to hear of it, followed him on foot from the cities. 14 When he came ashore, he saw a large crowd, and he felt pity for them, and he cured their sick ones. 15 But when evening fell, his disciples came to him and said: “The place is isolated and the hour is already late; send the crowds away, so that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food.” 16 However, Jesus said to them: “They do not have to leave; you give them something to eat.” 17 They said to him: “We have nothing here except five loaves and two fish.” 18 He said: “Bring them here to me.” 19 And he instructed the crowds to recline on the grass. Then he took the five loaves and two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said a blessing, and after breaking the loaves, he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 So they all ate and were satisfied, and they took up the leftover fragments, 12 baskets full. 21 Now those eating were about 5,000 men, as well as women and young children.

(Mark 6:30-44) The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all the things they had done and taught. 31 And he said to them: “Come, you yourselves, privately into an isolated place and rest up a little.” For there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure time even to eat a meal. 32 So they set off in the boat for an isolated place to be by themselves. 33 But people saw them going and many got to know it, and from all the cities they ran together on foot and got there ahead of them. 34 Well, on getting out, he saw a large crowd, and he was moved with pity for them, because they were as sheep without a shepherd. And he started to teach them many

things. 35 By now the hour had grown late, and his disciples came up to him and said: “This place is isolated, and the hour is already late. 36 Send them away, so that they may go off into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” 37 He replied to them: “You give them something to eat.” At this they said to him: “Should we go off and buy 200 de·nar'i·i worth of bread and give it to the people to eat?” 38 He said to them: “How many loaves do you have? Go see!” After finding out, they said: “Five, besides two fish.” 39 And he instructed all the people to recline in groups on the green grass. 40 So they reclined in groups of 100 and of 50. 41 Taking now the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves up and began giving them to the disciples to place them before the people, and he divided up the two fish for all. 42 So they all ate and were satisfied, 43 and they took up 12 baskets full of fragments, aside from the fish. 44 Those who ate the loaves were 5,000 men.

(Luke 9:10-17) When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus all they had done. With that he took them along and withdrew privately into a city called Beth·sa'i·da. 11 But the crowds, getting to know it, followed him. And he received them kindly and began to speak to them about the Kingdom of God, and he healed those needing a cure. 12 Then the day was coming to a close. The Twelve now came up and said to him: “Send the crowd away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and provisions, because out here we are in an isolated place.” 13 But he said to them: “You give them something to eat.” They said: “We have nothing more than five loaves and two fish, unless perhaps we ourselves go and buy food for all these people.” 14 There were, in fact, about 5,000 men. But he said to his disciples: “Have them sit down in groups of about 50 each.” 15 And they did so and had them all sit

down. 16 Taking now the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed them. Then he broke them up and began giving them to the disciples to set before the crowd. 17 So they all ate and were satisfied, and they took up the leftovers, 12 baskets of fragments.

(John 6:1-13) After this Jesus set out across the Sea of Gal'i-lee, or Ti-be'ri-as. 2 And a large crowd kept following him, because they were observing the miraculous signs he was performing in healing the sick. 3 So Jesus went up on a mountain and sat down there with his disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. 5 When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip: “Where will we buy bread for these people to eat?” 6 However, he was saying this to test him, for he knew what he was about to do. 7 Philip answered him: “Two hundred de·nar'i-i worth of bread is not enough for each of them to get even a little.” 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him: 9 “Here is a little boy who has five barley loaves and two small fish. But what are these among so many?” 10 Jesus said: “Have the men sit down.” As there was a lot of grass in that place, the men sat down there, about 5,000 in number. 11 Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks, he distributed it to those who were sitting there; he did likewise with the small fish, and they had as much as they wanted. 12 But when they had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples: “Gather together the fragments left over, so that nothing is wasted.” 13 So they gathered them together and filled 12 baskets with fragments left over by those who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

Paragraph 1 on Page 128

(Mark 6:30, 31) The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all the things they had done and taught. 31 And he said to them: “Come, you yourselves, privately into an

isolated place and rest up a little.” For there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure time even to eat a meal.

Paragraph 3 on Page 128

(Mark 6:34) Well, on getting out, he saw a large crowd, and he was moved with pity for them, because they were as sheep without a shepherd. And he started to teach them many things.

(Luke 9:11) But the crowds, getting to know it, followed him. And he received them kindly and began to speak to them about the Kingdom of God, and he healed those needing a cure.

(Matthew 14:15) But when evening fell, his disciples came to him and said: “The place is isolated and the hour is already late; send the crowds away, so that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food.”

Paragraph 4 on Page 128

(Matthew 14:16) However, Jesus said to them: “They do not have to leave; you give them something to eat.”

(John 6:5-7) When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip: “Where will we buy bread for these people to eat?” 6 However, he was saying this to test him, for he knew what he was about to do. 7 Philip answered him: “Two hundred de·nar'i-i worth of bread is not enough for each of them to get even a little.”

Paragraph 5 on Page 128

(John 6:9) “Here is a little boy who has five barley loaves and two small fish. But what are these among so many?”

Paragraph 7 on Page 128

(John 6:12) But when they had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples: “Gather together the fragments left over, so that nothing is wasted.”

[Box on page 129]

◇Why does Jesus seek a place of privacy for his apostles?

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◇Where do Jesus and the disciples go, and what do they encounter there?

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◇What do the disciples urge Jesus to do, but how does he care for the people?

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