

John 21:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.

Analysis

Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise (ἔρχεται Ἰησοῦς καὶ λαμβάνει τὸν ἄρτον καὶ δίδωσιν αὐτοῖς/erchetai Iēsous kai lambanei ton arton kai didōsin autois)—The verbs deliberately echo the feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:11: ἐλαβεν... ἐδίδου/elaben... edidou). Jesus serves them personally, distributing bread and fish. This isn't merely a meal but a liturgical moment, recalling both the wilderness feeding and the Last Supper.

The resurrected Christ continues His earthly pattern: He provides, He serves, He feeds. Glorification hasn't made Him distant or imperious; He remains the servant-King. The eucharistic overtones are unmistakable—taking bread, giving it to disciples. Yet this is a real meal with real food, emphasizing the physicality of resurrection. Jesus' body is transformed but not ethereal; glorified but not ghostly. He handles fish and bread, serving breakfast to hungry fishermen. Heaven doesn't despise earth; resurrection redeems it.

Historical Context

The actions—taking bread, giving to disciples—mirror Jewish meal blessings and Christian Eucharist. Early Christians would recognize liturgical patterns in this narrative. The combination of miraculous provision (the catch) and Jesus' personal service models pastoral ministry: God provides the harvest, but shepherds must distribute the food. First-century readers would connect this breakfast to both

Passover meals (commemorating God's provision in exodus) and prophetic messianic banquets.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus personally distributing food to the disciples model servant leadership for those He calls to 'feed His sheep'?
2. What do the eucharistic echoes in this breakfast teach about Christ's continued provision for His church between resurrection and return?
3. How does the physicality of this meal—real bread, real fish, real hunger satisfied—affirm the bodily resurrection against spiritual-only interpretations?

Interlinear Text

ἔρχεται οὖν ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ λαμβάνει τὸν ἄρτον καὶ
cometh then G3588 Jesus and taketh G2983 bread and
G2064 G3767 G2424 G2532 G2983 G740 G2532

δίδωσιν αὐτοῖς καὶ τὸ ὄψαριον ὁμοίως
giveth them and G3588 fish likewise
G1325 G846 G2532 G3795 G3668

Additional Cross-References

John 21:9 (Parallel theme): As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

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