

John 6:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

Analysis

Jesus gave thanks (Greek 'eucharisteo', from which we get Eucharist) before the miracle, modeling gratitude and acknowledging God as provider. The distribution 'to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down' establishes the pattern for church ministry: Christ gives to leaders who distribute to the people. The abundance ('as much as they would') contrasts with the wilderness manna's daily portion, showing Christ's superior provision.

Historical Context

Jewish meal customs required a blessing before eating. The five barley loaves (food of the poor) and two small fish were one boy's lunch (6:9). Barley bread was cheaper than wheat, highlighting that Christ uses humble offerings to accomplish great purposes.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What small offerings can you place in Christ's hands for Him to multiply?
2. How does Jesus' thanksgiving before the miracle model contentment and faith in scarcity?

Interlinear Text

ἔλαβεν	δέ	τοὺς	ἄρτους	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	καὶ
took	And	G3588	the loaves	G3588	Jesus	and
G2983	G1161		G740		G2424	G2532
εὐχαριστήσας	διέδωκεν	τοῖς	μαθηταὶ	οἱ	δέ	
when he had given thanks	he distributed	G3588	the disciples	G3588	And	
G2168	G1239		G3101		G1161	
μαθηταὶ	τοῖς	ἀνακειμένοις	ὁμοίως	καὶ	ἐκ	τῶν
the disciples	G3588	to them that were set down	likewise	and	of	G3588
G3101		G345	G3668	G2532	G1537	
ὀψαρίων	ὅσον	ἤθελον				
the fishes	as much as	they would				
G3795	G3745	G2309				

Additional Cross-References

John 6:23 (Parallel theme): (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:)

Matthew 15:36 (Parallel theme): And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

Romans 14:6 (Parallel theme): He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (References Jesus): In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Luke 24:30 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

Acts 27:35 (Parallel theme): And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (Parallel theme): Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Samuel 9:13 (Parallel theme): As soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he go up to the high place to eat: for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the sacrifice; and afterwards they eat that be bidden. Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him.