

Mark 6:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes.

Analysis

And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes.

Twelve baskets of leftovers exceeded the original five loaves exponentially. Jewish custom prohibited waste, so fragments were gathered. The twelve baskets (one per apostle) demonstrated that serving Christ's provision leaves servants abundantly supplied. Those who distribute divine grace discover inexhaustible resources.

Historical Context

The κόφινοι (kophinoi, wicker baskets) Jews used for provisions were distinct from large fish baskets. Twelve corresponded to twelve apostles and Israel's twelve tribes. The gathering followed halakhic practice against food waste. Archaeological evidence shows such baskets were common traveling equipment.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does this verse teach about Christ's nature and work?

2. How should this truth shape our daily discipleship?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | |
|------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| καὶ | ἦραν | κλασμάτων | δώδεκα | κοφίνους | πληρεις, | καὶ |
| And | they took up | of the fragments | twelve | baskets | full | And |
| G2532 | G142 | G2801 | G1427 | G2894 | G4134 | G2532 |
| ἀπὸ | τῶν | ἰχθύων | | | | |
| of | | the fishes | | | | |
| G575 | G3588 | G2486 | | | | |

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