

# Mark 8:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve.

## Analysis

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**When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up?**—Jesus employs Socratic questioning to awaken memory and understanding. He doesn't immediately explain but guides disciples to recall specific details. **They say unto him, Twelve**—their correct answer proves the issue isn't cognitive deficiency but spiritual blindness. They remember facts but miss meaning.

The twelve baskets (κόφινοι, kophinoi) signify complete provision for twelve tribes of Israel—Jesus abundantly feeds God's covenant people. The specific numbers aren't incidental—five loaves feeding five thousand with twelve baskets remaining demonstrates mathematical impossibility apart from divine creative power. Jesus forces disciples to confront this evidence: if He multiplied bread twice before, why worry about provisions now? Their anxiety after experiencing supernatural provision reveals unbelief's irrationality.

## Historical Context

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The feeding of the 5,000 occurred in Jewish territory near Bethsaida (Mark 6:30-44), making it the 'Jewish feeding.' The small wicker baskets (kophinoi) were typically carried by Jews traveling in Gentile lands to maintain kosher food. Rabbinic tradition counted twelve baskets as significant—one for each apostle, symbolizing abundance for all Israel. Jesus' interrogation method recalls rabbinic

catechetical practice—teachers asked questions to stimulate student reasoning rather than simply delivering information.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does remembering specific past provisions (twelve baskets) combat present anxiety about needs?
2. What does the disciples' ability to recall facts while missing meaning reveal about the difference between information and transformation?
3. How might keeping a detailed record of God's past faithfulness strengthen faith during present trials?

## Interlinear Text

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|                      |                 |                 |               |                     |              |       |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------|-------|
| ὅτε                  | τοὺς            | πέντε           | ἄρτους        | ἔκλασα              | εἰς          | τοὺς  |
| <b>When</b>          | G3588           | <b>the five</b> | <b>loaves</b> | <b>I brake</b>      | <b>among</b> | G3588 |
| G3753                |                 | G4002           | G740          | G2806               | G1519        |       |
| πεντακισχιλίους      | πόσους          | κοφίνους        | πλήρεις       | κλασμάτων           |              |       |
| <b>five thousand</b> | <b>how many</b> | <b>baskets</b>  | <b>full</b>   | <b>of fragments</b> |              |       |
| G4000                | G4214           | G2894           | G4134         | G2801               |              |       |
| ἤρατε                | λέγουσιν        | αὐτῷ            | Δώδεκα        |                     |              |       |
| <b>took ye up</b>    | <b>They say</b> | <b>unto him</b> | <b>Twelve</b> |                     |              |       |
| G142                 | G3004           | G846            | G1427         |                     |              |       |

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