

Matthew 14:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.

Analysis

The disciples' suggestion 'send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals' appears practical but shows limited faith. They saw the problem (hungry crowd, late hour, remote location) but not the divine solution. Their focus on human resources ('villages,' 'buy') missed the divine opportunity for miraculous provision. This response contrasts with Jesus' intention to test and train their faith.

Historical Context

Evening in Jewish reckoning began around 3pm. The remote location meant villages were hours away. The disciples' calculation was reasonable by human standards—5000 men plus women and children (possibly 10,000+ total) needed food. But Jesus was about to demonstrate God's economy transcends human limitation.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. When do you default to 'practical' solutions that limit God's miraculous power?
2. How does the disciples' suggestion reveal limited faith in your own life?

Interlinear Text

ὀψίας δὲ γενομένης προσῆλθον αὐτοῦ, οἱ μαθηταὶ
evening **And** **when it was** **came** **his** ^{G3588} **disciples**
G3798 G1161 G1096 G4334 G846 G3101

αὐτοῦ, λέγοντες Ἐρημός ἐστιν ὁ τόπος καὶ ἡ
his **saying** **a desert** **This is** ^{G3588} **place** **and** ^{G3588}
G846 G3004 G2048 G2076 G5117 G2532

ὥρα ἤδη παρῆλθεν· ἀπόλυσον τοὺς ὄχλους ἵνα
the time **is now** **past** **away** ^{G3588} **the multitude** **that**
G5610 G2235 G3928 G630 G3793 G2443

ἀπελθόντες εἰς τὰς κώμας ἀγοράσωσιν ἑαυτοῖς
they may go **into** ^{G3588} **the villages** **and buy** **themselves**
G565 G1519 G2968 G59 G1438

βρώματα
victuals
G1033

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 15:23 (Parallel theme): But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.