

Matthew 14:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He said, Bring them hither to me.

Analysis

'He said, Bring them hither to me.' Jesus responds to disciples' statement of inadequacy with simple command: 'Bring them hither to me' (φέρετέ μοι ὅδε αὐτούς/pherete moi hōde autous)—bring them here to me. Reformed theology sees profound principle: bring your inadequacy to Jesus. Don't hide lack, bemoan insufficiency, or attempt ministry in own strength. Bring whatever you have—however inadequate—to Christ. He receives, blesses, multiplies. The command demonstrates:

1. We must consciously surrender resources to Jesus—not assume automatic multiplication but deliberately place them in His hands
2. Jesus can use what we surrender—inadequacy doesn't disqualify us
3. Multiplication requires bringing resources to Jesus—keeping them in our possession leaves them inadequate.

The pattern applies universally: bring your inadequate faith, insufficient love, limited wisdom, meager resources to Christ. He takes, blesses, multiplies, uses for His kingdom purposes. The miracle begins when we bring what we have to Him.

Historical Context

Jewish meals began with blessing—prayer thanking God for provision. Jesus takes the loaves/fish, blesses them (v.19), then distributes. The blessing acknowledges God as source; the distribution demonstrates trust that God will provide. Ancient world had no illusions about food multiplication—everyone knew five loaves couldn't feed 5000+. Yet Jesus commands disciples bring the food to Him. Their

obedience to seemingly pointless command enabled the miracle. Throughout Scripture, obedience to strange commands precedes miracles: Moses striking rock (Exodus 17:6), Joshua marching around Jericho (Joshua 6), Naaman dipping in Jordan (2 Kings 5), blind man washing in Siloam (John 9:7). The pattern: God commands; we obey despite not understanding; He acts miraculously. Early church practiced this: when facing needs, they brought situation to Jesus in prayer, then acted in obedience to His leading. Paul's ministry exemplified this: constantly aware of inadequacy (2 Corinthians 3:5), yet experiencing Christ's sufficiency (2 Corinthians 12:9). The principle remains: bring everything to Jesus; He makes adequate what was insufficient.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What do you need to consciously bring to Jesus rather than trying to manage in your own strength?
2. How does the command 'bring them to me' change your perspective on inadequate resources and abilities?
3. What seemingly pointless obedience might God be calling you to that could become occasion for His miraculous provision?

Interlinear Text

ο	δὲ	εἰπεν,	Φέρετέ	μοι	αὐτοὺς	ὤδε
G3588	G1161	He said	Bring	to me	them	hither