

Matthew 14:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

Analysis

Jesus' actions—'he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples'—model prayer and order before provision. 'Looking up to heaven' shows dependence on the Father. 'He blessed' acknowledges God as provider. 'Brake' and 'gave' show Jesus as the distribution channel. The disciples distributed—participating in the miracle they couldn't produce themselves.

Historical Context

The orderly seating (Mark 6:40 says in groups of 50 and 100) facilitated distribution and demonstrated Jesus' authority. The blessing wasn't magic but acknowledgment of divine provision. The breaking multiplied the bread—as Jesus broke and gave, it increased. This prefigures the Lord's Supper where Jesus' broken body feeds spiritually.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' thanksgiving before the miracle model faith for you?
2. In what ways does this miracle prefigure communion and Christ's provision?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	κελεύσας	τοὺς	ὄχλοις	ἀνακλιθῆναι	ἐπὶ	τοὺς		
And	he commanded	G3588	the multitude	to sit down	on	G3588		
G2532	G2753		G3793	G347	G1909			
χόρτους	καὶ	λαβὼν	τοὺς	πέντε	ἄρτους	καὶ	τοὺς	δύο
the grass	And	took	G3588	the five	loaves	And	G3588	the two
G5528	G2532	G2983		G4002	G740	G2532		G1417
ἰχθύας	ἀναβλέψας	εἰς	τὸν	οὐρανὸν	εὐλόγησεν	καὶ		
fishes	and looking up	to	G3588	heaven	he blessed	And		
G2486	G308	G1519		G3772	G2127	G2532		
κλάσας	ἔδωκεν	τοῖς	μαθηταὶ	τοὺς	ἄρτους	οἱ	δὲ	
brake	and gave	G3588	the disciples	G3588	loaves	G3588	and	
G2806	G1325		G3101		G740		G1161	
μαθηταὶ	τοῖς	ὄχλοις						
the disciples	G3588	the multitude						
G3101		G3793						

Additional Cross-References

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

1 Samuel 9:13 (Blessing): 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.

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.

Mark 6:41 (Blessing): And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all.

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 Corinthians 11:24 (Parallel theme): And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Colossians 3:17 (Parallel theme): And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Mark 7:34 (Kingdom): And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened.

1 Corinthians 10:16 (Blessing): The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

Luke 9:14 (Parallel theme): For they were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, Make them sit down by fifties in a company.