

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 fishes 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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for 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.