

Matthew 15:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

Analysis

And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks (καὶ λαβὼν τοὺς ἑπτὰ ἄρτους καὶ τοὺς ἰχθύας εὐχαριστήσας)—The verb εὐχαριστέω (eucharisteō, 'to give thanks') gives us 'Eucharist.' Jesus blessed the Father before distribution, modeling gratitude for provision. Thanksgiving preceded multiplication—recognizing God's goodness unlocks His generosity. The aorist participle εὐχαριστήσας shows Jesus gave thanks once, yet the provision satisfied thousands—one prayer, endless provision.

And brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude (ἔκλασεν καὶ ἔδιδου τοῖς μαθηταῖς, οἱ δὲ μαθηταὶ τοῖς ὄχλοις)—The breaking (κλάω, klaō) multiplied the bread. The imperfect ἔδιδου ('He kept giving') shows continuous distribution. Jesus gave to disciples who gave to crowds—establishing the pattern: Christ provides, disciples distribute. Ministers are channels, not sources. We dispense what we receive, adding nothing, subtracting nothing.

Historical Context

Jewish meal blessings (berakot) thanked God as Creator and Provider: 'Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.' Jesus followed this tradition, but as God incarnate, He gave thanks to the Father while simultaneously acting as Provider. The breaking of bread was customary

before distribution; here it became the moment of miraculous multiplication, perhaps grain by grain as pieces passed through Jesus's hands.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does thanking God before seeing provision demonstrate faith versus thanking Him only afterward?
2. In what ways are you merely a conduit of Christ's provision rather than the source of ministry?

Interlinear Text

καὶ λαβὼν τοὺς ἑπτὰ ἄρτους καὶ τοὺς ἵχθύας
And he took the seven loaves And the fishes
G2532 G2983 G3588 G2033 G740 G2532 G3588 G2486

εὐχαριστήσας ἔκλασεν καὶ ἔδωκεν τοῖς μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ·
and gave thanks and brake And gave G3588 disciples G846
G2168 G2806 G2532 G1325 G3101

οἱ δὲ μαθηταὶ τῷ ὄχλῳ
G3588 and disciples G3588 to the multitude
G1161 G3101 G3793

Additional Cross-References

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.

Luke 22:19 (Parallel theme): And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

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.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (Parallel theme): Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

John 6:11 (Parallel theme): And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

1 Samuel 9:13 (Parallel theme): 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.