Matthew 15:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full.

Analysis

And they did all eat, and were filled (καὶ ἔφαγον πάντες καὶ ἐχορτάσθησαν)— The verb χορτάζω (chortazō) means 'to feed, to fill, to satisfy fully'—not mere subsistence but complete satisfaction. The πάντες ('all') emphasizes universality— no one left hungry. This fulfills Psalm 107:9: 'He satisfies the longing soul and fills the hungry soul with goodness.' Where Jesus provides, there's full satisfaction, not rationed scarcity.

And they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full (καὶ ἦραν τὸ περισσεῦον τῶν κλασμάτων ἑπτὰ σπυρίδας πληρεῖς)—The verb περισσεύω (perisseuō, 'to exceed, to abound') appears as a participle: 'the exceeding fragments.' God's provision exceeds need. Seven σπυρίδας (spyris, 'large baskets,' used for carrying cargo—different from κόφινος in 14:20) were filled. The abundance of leftovers wasn't wastefulness but demonstration that God's resources are inexhaustible. Starting with seven loaves, they ended with seven baskets—but having fed four thousand. God returns what we give Him multiplied.

Historical Context

The distinction between basket types is significant: κόφινος (kophinos, 14:20) was a small wicker basket Jews used for carrying food (keeping ritual purity), while σπυρίς (spyris) was a large rope-basket used for cargo (Acts 9:25 uses this for lowering Paul). Twelve kophinos baskets after feeding 5,000 Jews; seven spyris

baskets after feeding 4,000 (mostly Gentiles)—both numbers symbolically significant (twelve tribes; seven= completeness).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's provision always exceeding need challenge your anxious hoarding mentality?
2. What does God returning what you give Him—multiplied—teach about generous stewardship?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἔφαγον	πάντες	καὶ	ἐχορτάσθησαν	καὶ	ἦραν	τὸ
And	eat	all	And	were filled	And	they took up	G3588
G2532	G5315	G3956	G2532	G5526	G2532	G142	

περισσεῦον	τῶν	κλασμάτων	ἑπτὰ	σπυρίδας	πλήρεις
meat that was left	G3588	of the broken	seven	baskets	full
G4052		G2801	G2033	G4711	G4134