

Two More Multiplication Scriptures to Ponder

Matthew 14: 19 (NIV): "then Jesus gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people..."

- When did the multiplication of the loaves and fish occur to feed the hungry multitudes of people that Jesus was healing? Was it in the blessing, the breaking, or the distribution by the disciples that the miracle of provision showed up?
- If the multiplication came in the blessing of Jesus, then a pile as big as a haystack would have appeared on the ground. If in the breaking, Jesus would have been breaking off bread and fish into baskets for a couple hours to feed maybe 7000-8000+ people. The text never says that happened. It appears it was in the distribution by the disciples that the food just never ran out, similar to the oil and flour that lasted through a famine in the Old Testament.
- What implications for our ministries does this multiplication text have?

Ephesians 4: 11-12 "It was he (the ascended Jesus) who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service..."

- The intent of the ascended and glorified Jesus is to "fill the whole universe" through His Church in multiplied ministry to the world. (v. 10, v. 13) Jesus' method is multiplication of His own character and ministry through the five-fold equipping leaders He calls and qualifies, who in turn multiply ministry through equipping the saints in great numbers, who in turn multiply the serving by God's people directly through the whole church and community around them and world, ultimately. What possibilities exist where this leadership paradigm is fully lived into?
- How can we increase awareness and alignment among the five-fold equipping leaders raised by Christ in his church today, so verse 12 overflows into verse 13?

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