

Jesus Gives Bread to the Hungry

There were always crowds of people gathering around Jesus. As soon as the people in a village or in a town heard that Jesus was there, they would come out and surround Him. They would bring their sick people for Him to heal. They would also listen to His words and ask Him questions. Hour after hour they would stay with Him or follow Him as He walked along the roads.

One day Christ said to His disciples: "Come with Me to a quiet place, away from the crowds, and let us rest for a while." So they all went into a boat and rowed across the lake to an open place where no one lived.

But the people saw them going, and they went on foot around the end of the lake to find Jesus and His 12 disciples.

When Jesus saw how eager they were to be with Him, He was sorry for them. He talked to them and healed those who were sick.

The day went by and it was evening. A great crowd was still pressing around Jesus. His disciples said to Jesus: "It is getting late and we are far from any village. Send the people away so that they might go and buy themselves some food before it is night."

But Jesus answered: "They need not go away. You can give them something to eat here."

The disciples said: "We have not enough food with us. We would have to go to the next village and buy a lot of bread to feed them all; and even then it would be only a small piece for each person."

Andrew, one of the disciples, said: "There is a little boy here who has two small fishes and five loaves of bread. But that isn't enough for such a great number of people." Jesus asked the little boy to come up and give Him his loaves of bread and his fishes.

Jesus told the disciples: "Tell the people to sit down." Everyone sat down. There were about five thousand people gathered there. Jesus took the loaves of bread and the fishes and said a prayer of thanks over them. Then He passed them on to His disciples, and the disciples began to pass out the food to all those who were sitting on the grass. People passed on the food from one to another. They passed it on and on and still there was more to be had. When everyone had eaten and no one remained hungry, Jesus told His disciples to gather up the crumbs so that nothing would be lost. The disciples gathered up the bread that was left. This leftover bread filled twelve baskets.

When the people saw what had happened they said to each other: "This is truly the Savior that God has promised us." They wanted to make Jesus their king, but Jesus did not want to be a king on earth. His kingdom was in heaven and was not like other kingdoms. He left the crowd of people and went up on a mountain all by Himself to rest and pray to His Father.

**The Man Who Wanted to See Jesus*

**Two Men in the Temple*