

## THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

### FEEDING THE MULTITUDE “I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE”

[Ask Audience to leave Main Room]

OPEN CURTAIN

[Jesus and the Disciples can be seen rowing in a boat]

NARR: This year in Sunday School we have been studying the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our program today shows just a small part of His ministry. Today we consider and reflect upon a few of His mighty works which have been recorded so that we may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that believing we may have life in His name.

[Audience comes back in during this next Narr.]

NARR: The scene opens with Jesus and His Disciples going from Capernaum by boat across the Lake of Galilee to a deserted area. They wanted to be by themselves after hearing the sad news about John the Baptist and also needing a rest from their preaching effort. It is Passover time, one year before the last Passover Supper Jesus had with His Disciples before His death and resurrection.

[Jesus and D's exit boat and sit down facing audience]

BARTHOLOMEW: Well Peter, it sure is nice to have a day off.

PETER: [Looking up with a surprised look, jumps to his feet and exclaims to audience coming in] It's not going to last long Bartholomew! A multitude of people are coming our way!

JESUS: [Standing up and 'thinking-out-loud'] They are like sheep without a shepherd, needing a lot of guidance and spiritual food.

[Loudly beckoning to Audience] Welcome brethren and friends. Come close and hear the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

[The Disciples gather at Jesus' feet. Jesus quietly acts out teaching and healing. The disciples appear to listen intently, smiling and nodding in agreement. When Jesus heals somebody they spring up shouting out and rejoicing. This actions continues during the following Narr.]

NARR: And so Jesus welcomed the great multitude and began to teach them many things and spoke about the Kingdom of God. He also made well many who were in need of healing.

[During the next Narr the Disciples start acting hungry (like holding their hungry stomachs) and start looking tired and sleepy]

NARR: Jesus remained with the people all day, teaching and healing them. When it was evening His Disciples came to Him anxious and concerned about dinner arrangements.

[Disciples stand up and approach Jesus]

THADDAEUS: Jesus, this is a deserted place, there's nothing around here, and it's already very late in the day and the people have nothing to eat!

BARTHOLOMEW: Thaddaeus is right! The multitude should be sent away.

THOMAS: I agree with Bartholomew and Thaddaeus, Jesus tell the people to leave and buy their dinner and find a place to stay overnight in a nearby village... somewhere.

JESUS: They do not need to go away... YOU give them something to eat.

THADDAEUS: [In a somewhat sarcastic indignant tone] Shall we go and buy 200 Denarii worth of bread, months and months of wages, and give them something to eat??

JESUS: [To Philip] Philip, where can we buy bread for all these people to eat?

PHILIP: But Jesus, 200 Denarii worth of bread is not enough for every one to get even a little piece!

NARR: Jesus asked Philip this question to test him. Jesus already knew what he himself was going to do.

JESUS: How many loaves do we have with us?

[Disciples look at each other, shrugging shoulders and gesturing "I don't know"]

JESUS: Please look in to this.

[The Disciples search around the area of the stage and into the audience. Find the Young Lad (Simon K.) in the audience who has 5 loaves and 2 fish. The disciples rush him up to Jesus on the stage.]

NARR: The Disciples search among their belongings and the people.... and find a Young Lad who has some food.

PETER: Jesus! Andrew has found something!

ANDREW: [With Lad in front of him with hands on Lad's shoulders]

Here is a Lad who has 5 barley loaves and 2 small fish, but that is not enough for so many people.

THOMAS: We looked high and low, unless we can somehow but food, this is all we have.

JESUS: Bring them here to me...and make the people sit down in groups of fifty.[Lad hands food over to Jesus]

ALL DISCIPLES: [spread out across stage facing and directing audience]

2 at a time - "Everybody, please listen"

"Sit down in groups of 50"

"We need to prepare for Dinner"

[During the next Narr. Everyone on stage bows head except for Jesus. Jesus holds the loaves and fish and looks up to Heaven]

NARR: And Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to Heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the Disciples; and the Disciples gave to the multitudes.

[After this narration, Jesus gives real bread baskets to Emilee, Simon, Kathleen and Luke P. to take to the tables in the audience]

DISCIPLES PASSING OUT BREAD: Here is bread from Jesus.

[While kids are passing out bread baskets the disciples on stage sit down with pieces of bread that Jesus breaks off and gives to them to eat. Disciples are now looking full and satisfied]

NARR: So they all ate and were filled.

PHILIP: Wow! Am I ever full.

ANDREW: You can say that again Philip. That was an excellent meal.

JESUS: Andrew, Philip, all of you, gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.

[All the Disciples pick up fragment props on stage and work their way through the main room picking up imaginary fragments then disappear into coat rack area.]

[As next NARR starts, the Disciples reappear with 12 baskets of prop fragments and bring them to the stage and set them down at Jesus' feet.]

NARR: The Disciples gathered up and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

[Disciples face audience and exclaim]

ALL DISCIPLES IN UNISON: This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world!

CLOSE CURTAIN

NARR: Many were beginning to realize that the prophecy given by God to Moses was being fulfilled before their eyes.

Deut. 18:17-18

And the LORD said...I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

One year later, at the time of the next Passover, Jesus again took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to His disciples, and said, take, eat; this is my body.

His language is identical to what we have witnessed in this miracle. The Lord Jesus Christ was teaching that by the breaking of His own body in death He would provide true bread which would sustain many unto life eternal. All who partake of this bread, both Jew and Gentile, who identify with Him and take on His way have the Hope to join with Him at yet another meal for a multitude. He has promised and His desire is for all of us along with many of His brothers and sisters, from every generation, to sit at His table in the Kingdom of God.

THE END