

Matthew 14b

Feeding Five Thousand

Matthew 14:13

When Jesus heard it, He departed from there **by boat** to a **deserted place** by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. ¹⁴ And when Jesus went out **He saw a great multitude**...

Desert = "Ερημος (Erēmos) - Desert (13x) / Wilderness (32x)

Mark adds this detail

Mark 6:31b

...they [the Disciples] **did not even have time to eat.**

So Jesus is

- **Grieving** the murder of his friend
- Needing to be **alone**
- **Hangry**

And yet...

Mark 6:34

[Jesus] was **moved with compassion** for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. **So He began to teach them** many things.

But he also healed people

Matthew 14:14b

...He was moved with compassion for them, and **healed their sick.** ¹⁵ When it was **evening**, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. **Send the multitudes away**, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food."

It's easy to criticise

but do you know what 5000 looks like ...

*This is a **logical** thought process*



Matthew 14:16

But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. **You give them something to eat.**”

John gives us a few more details...

John 6:5

...He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”

⁶ But this He said to test him, for **He Himself knew what He would do.**

Jesus has a plan!

And it goes further than just the miracle here...

What's he up to?

Let's gather a few clues...

John 6:1

After these things Jesus went over the **Sea of Galilee**, which is **the Sea of Tiberias**.

Remember that

- **Herod's palace was in Tiberias**, on the west side of Galilee
- **Herod** was the man who had **beheaded John**
- The **West** was predominantly **Jewish**
- The **East** was predominantly **Gentile**



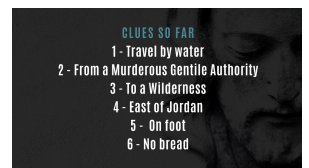
Luke 9:10

Then He took them and went aside privately into **a deserted place** belonging to the city called **Bethsaida**.

Jesus starts on the west and goes to the east.

So... What do we know so far?

- Clue 1 - Jesus travels **by water**...(Mat. 14:13)
- Clue 2 - Away from a **murderous Gentile Authority**
- Clue 3 - To a **Wilderness** (*Erēmos*)
- Clue 4 - **East of Jordan**
- Clue 5 - Israelites have traveled there **on foot**
- Clue 6 - They have **no bread**



John gave us **one more clue...**

John 6:4

Now the **Passover**, a feast of the Jews, was near.

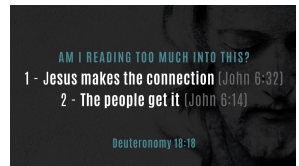
What happened at the first Passover?

- Israel follows Moses **by water**
- Away from a **murderous Gentile Authority**
- To a **Wilderness** place
- **East of Jordan**
- Israel follows **on foot**
- But there's **no bread**



Am I reading too much into this?

1 - Jesus makes the connection himself...



John 6:32

Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.**”³³ For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴ Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life.**”

2 - The people didn't even need Jesus to spell it out...

John 6:14

Then those men, **when they had seen the sign that Jesus did**, said, “This is **truly the Prophet** who is to come into the world.”

Who is “The Prophet”??

God promised to send an unnamed prophet

Deuteronomy 18:18

I will raise up for them **a Prophet like you [Moses]** from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.¹⁹ And it shall be that whoever will not hear **My words**, which **He speaks** in My name,..
I will require it of him.

The exodus story **culminates** in Israel's **arrival at a mountain** where the people **receive the will of God**, bringing them from **chaos to order**.

John 6:3

Jesus went up **on the mountain**

Matthew 14:17

And they said to Him, "We have here only **five loaves and two fish.**"

¹⁸ He said, "Bring them here to Me." ¹⁹ Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass.

And it was more than 5000!

Matthew 14:21

Now those who had eaten were about
five thousand men, **besides women and children.**

Estimates usually range from 15-20 thousand.

Requiring 2.5 Metric Tons... and the fish was cooked.

Mark 6:40

they sat down in ranks, **in hundreds and in fifties.**

More specifically, 100 groups of 50 men. (Luke 9:14)

Chaos to order

The most effective way for this to happen is...

- **Jesus directs the Apostles**
- **The apostles organize the men.**
- **The men manage their households**

It's just interesting that this is how Paul orders the church...

Ephesians 4:7

But to each one of us grace was given according to
the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says:

"When He **ascended on high,**
He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men."

From his position of authority...

Ephesians 4:11

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some
pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,

Later that chapter, Paul tells us how we are to
minister to wives, children, and even household servants...

Always organized to the head of the household...

Ephesians 5:22

Wives, submit to your own husbands

Ephesians 6:1

Children, obey your parents

Ephesians 6:5

Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh

***Husbands, you are the HUB of God's plan
to bring order whether there was chaos.***

Husbands, how do you bring order to your households?

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church
and gave Himself for her

Ephesians 6:5

fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath,
but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:9

masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own
Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Matthew 14:19b

And He 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. ²⁰ So they all ate
and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.

It's fun to theorize about numbers and their significance,

but I prefer to believe that Jesus was **simply taking care of his hungry disciples.**

There's a great little lesson here too:

- The servants should eat last
- Our job is to make sure the Kings and Priests of the kingdom are fed.

I want you to see one more point

Notice that Jesus is **TWO THINGS** in this story

- He is the **True and Better Moses**
- He is the **True and Better Manna**

The Moses metaphor is easy...

Moses was the Law Giver - He brought the will of God.

Jesus more perfectly expresses God's will
Because where the 613 laws spoke to 613 situations

Love speaks to every aspect of life

But what does the Manna mean?

John 6:51

I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and **the bread that I shall give is My flesh**, which I shall give for the life of the world."

⁵² The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying,

"How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"

Their understanding is off.

They are taking Him literally

- Jesus is **NOT** speaking **LITERALLY** here
- But neither is he speaking in **MERE METAPHOR**

**This is difficult to understand
Because we get it BACKWARD**

He is not saying that **Bread is the real thing**, and offering **His body as a metaphor**
He is saying that **Bread HAS ALWAYS BEEN the METAPHOR...** He is the real thing.

What is bread for?

It sustains life and brings strength.

As we seek to do the will of the true Law Giver
We will need the strength to do His will.

***We are, and always will be sustained and
strengthened by Christ alone.***

Galilee of the Gentiles

Zebulun of the gentiles debunked!

Case for "Galilee of the Gentiles" Referring to Actual Gentiles¹

Premise 1: Galilee Was Originally Israelite Land

Biblical Evidence:

- Joshua 19:10-16 – "And the third lot came up for the children of Zebulun according to their families: and the border of their inheritance was unto Sarid... [mentions various cities in Galilee]."
- Joshua 19:32-39 – Describes Naphtali's inheritance, which includes the land of Galilee.

Historical Context:

- Galilee was part of the inheritance of the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali. It was meant to be inhabited by Israelites.

Premise 2: Assyrian Conquest Brought Gentile Settlement

- 2 Kings 15:29 – "In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abel-beth-maachah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria."
- 2 Kings 17:24 – "And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof."
- Josephus, Antiquities 9.11.1 – "For when Tiglath-Pileser made a journey into Syria, he carried the whole of the people of Galilee into captivity, and from that time Galilee was a mixture of Israelites and Gentiles."

Premise 3: By Jesus' Time, Galilee Had a Strong Gentile Presence

- Josephus, Wars of the Jews 3.3.2 – "Galilee... was surrounded by foreigners... there was a mixed population, and the native Jews had to live in close proximity with them."
- Josephus, Antiquities 12.3.1 – "There were many Gentiles in Galilee, and their population was on the rise. The land was inhabited by various foreign peoples."
- Matthew 4:15 – "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles."

Context: Matthew here quotes Isaiah 9:1-2, showing Galilee was known as a Gentile-influenced area.

Premise 4: The Roman Centurion in Capernaum Proves Gentile Presence

- Matthew 8:5-13 – "And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, and saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented... And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour."
- Luke 7:1-10 – "Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum. And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die... And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this: For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue."
- Luke 7:5 – The Jewish elders confirm the centurion is not an Israelite: "He loveth our nation and hath built us a synagogue."
- Matthew 8:10 – "When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel."

Context: Jesus is distinguishing the Roman centurion from Israel, showing he is a Gentile.

Conclusion

- Galilee was originally Israelite but became heavily Gentile due to conquest and resettlement.
- Josephus confirms that Galilee had a substantial non-Israelite population by Jesus' time
- Matthew's use of "Galilee of the Gentiles" is historically accurate, referring to actual Gentiles living there.
- This sets the stage for Jesus' ministry extending beyond Israel, fulfilling prophecy (Isaiah 9:1-2).

¹ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/christian2hebrew/posts/1608205486553279/>