

JESUS FEEDS FIVE THOUSAND

MARK 6:6-13; JOHN 6:1-14

Are there lots of sparrows around your house? Do you think God knows how many sparrows there are in the whole world? Let's find out from today's Bible Story.

In Mark chapter 6 we read that Jesus sent his 12 disciples all through the land to preach to the Jews. He gave them power to do miracles so that people would believe what they preached. Jesus told them not to take any food or money with them for God would give them all they needed. "God even cares about the sparrows and feeds them", Jesus said, "and not one of them dies without God knowing about it. So don't be afraid that He will not take care of you. For you are much more valuable to God than the sparrows."

Wherever Jesus went in the villages or cities, sick people were laid in the streets and all who touched Him became perfectly well. In the book of John chapter 6 in the Bible we learn that in the evening Jesus' disciples came to Him and said "Jesus, send the people away to the villages to buy food for it will soon be dark." "They don't need to go away" Jesus said, "You feed them". "What?" The disciples exclaimed! "Feed all this crowd? There are five thousand men plus women and children. That would cost way too much money, more than a year's pay for a farmer." "How many loaves of bread do you have" Jesus asked them. "Go and see".

A small boy, who had forgotten to eat his lunch (I guess he was just too busy listening to Jesus), heard what Jesus said and brought his lunch to Andrew, one of Jesus' disciples. His lunch only had 5 little tiny barley loaves and 2 small fish. Enough lunch for one small hungry boy. But this child wanted to give it all to Jesus. Then Jesus told the people to sit down on the grass in groups of 50 and 100. Jesus took the 5 loaves and 2 fish and thanked God for them. Then he began to break the loaves in pieces and gave them to the disciples. He did that with the 2 fish too. Then the disciples began to pass the food out to the people. The strangest thing happened. As the disciples passed out the pieces of bread and fish, there was more than enough for everyone. Jesus was just making that food grow into more and more and more.

Where does the food you eat come from? The grocery store? The farmer? The fields where it's grown? Well, yes, but really it all comes from God because only God can make it grow. Do you thank God every day for caring for you and feeding you? God sees that the sparrows have food. And the Bible says that God cares for you and He will see that you will get all that you need if you are His child. But what are you willing to give to Jesus so He can bless it and make you a blessing to help others in their time of need? Will you give yourself, your love, your everything to Jesus so that He can use it to bring glory to God? Take time to read today's Bible Story in Mark chapter 6 verses 6 to 13 and John chapter 6 verses 1 to 14.