

BLAST Zone Video #2: "Five Loaves and Two Fishes" **(Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-13)**

6.13.20

Harmony:

Can you imagine how you'd feel if, one day, your parents came to you and said that you needed to go to the grocery store and buy enough food to feed, oh, say, some 5,000 people - basically food for everybody in Redwood Falls. And then a few minutes later they corrected themselves and said, "Oh, you know what? You better make that enough food for all of Redwood County. And you'd better hurry; they're already showing up and getting ready to chow down." What do you suppose you'd say? Well, think about that while we share today's BLAST story.

Now when this story begins, we know that Jesus has been doing his ministry for a while - for long enough to call His 12 disciples. So, there came a day when He sent them out to do ministry. He sent them out two by two to heal people and to preach that people should repent - confess their sins to God. While they were doing that, Jesus continued His ministry as well.

Well, when the disciples returned to Jesus, He tried to take them away for some peace and quiet, but the crowds recognized them and began following them. Soon there was a massive crowd there. Now the Bible tells us that Jesus wasn't upset; in fact, it says that He had compassion on them, which means that He felt bad for them because He really cared about them. So, He welcomed them and taught them and healed them.

But before long the sun was setting, but all these people were still with them. So the disciples came to Jesus and said, "You know, Lord, maybe we should send these people away so they can find something to eat, and maybe even find some place to spend the night."

Now I'm sure the disciples thought Jesus would agree with them; after all, they were showing compassion for the people, too. But instead, Jesus said to them, "We don't have to send them away; they'll be fine. You give them something to eat."

The disciples must have wondered if they were hearing right. But once they figured out what Jesus had said, they panicked. "Lord," they said, "how in the world are we supposed to do that? It would take something like half a year's wages to maybe buy enough bread to feed them all. We haven't got that kind of money."

But the Bible tells us that, all the time, even while the disciples were trying to figure out what to do, Jesus knew what He was going to do. He had just wanted to see if their reaction would reflect even a little bit if they knew who He really was. But, just at this moment, the disciple Andrew, who was Peter's brother, came up to Jesus. "Master," he said, "I found this little boy here who says he has five loaves and two fish his mom made up for his lunch today." But then he paused before saying, "But what is this little kid's little lunch among so many people?" Good question - the Bible tells us that there were 5,000 men there and because, at that time, only men were counted in a crowd and probably assuming that a lot of those men brought their families with them, there

may have actually been anywhere from 10-15,000 people there, maybe 20,000 ... and maybe more.

The Bible says that Jesus told the disciples to make everybody sit down. Fortunately, the place where they were was flat and grassy, so they had plenty of room. They sat down in groups of fifties and hundreds, all the while wondering what was going to happen.

Then Jesus took that little boy's lunch. Can you imagine what that must have been like, being just a little kid, and giving your lunch to somebody as famous as Jesus of Nazareth? I can picture Jesus taking the lunch and thanking the boy for the kindness of letting Him have it. I'm sure that little boy was wondering: "That might not have even been enough food for me," and then looking up to Jesus: "Sir, are you sure that will be enough food for you?" I got a feeling that Jesus looked at the little boy, a smile on His face, and then maybe even winked at him, as if to say: "Just wait 'til you see what's about to happen to your lunch."

Then Jesus turned aside with the five loaves and two fishes and, looking up to heaven, He began to pray. And soon He started to break apart the five loaves into smaller pieces. And He kept breaking, and breaking, and breaking. He called the disciples over to Him to start passing out the bread to the people. All the while, He kept breaking up those loaves, like there was no end in sight. And soon He began doing the same thing with the two fish. He started to break those into smaller pieces too, and kept breaking, and kept breaking. He kept the disciples going back and forth between Himself and the crowd, continuing to share pieces of bread and fish.

Can you imagine what the disciples must have been saying? "I thought you told me we only had five loaves and two fishes." "Yeah; that's all that little kid gave Him." "Well then, how in the world are all 12 of us still passing out food; would you mind explaining that?" "I can't, but I expect it has something to do with Jesus." And the Bible tells us that everyone in the crowd that day got to eat all they wanted; in fact, the disciples collected enough leftovers to fill up 12 large baskets.

And all of this happened because one little boy thought of what might be possible if his little lunch was placed in the hands of Jesus.

Guys, that Jesus is still around, and still just as powerful. I know sometimes it may seem like people don't think you can do much or maybe add a lot to a moment. When that happens, just remember this little boy. And remember that the feeding of all those thousands of people started when he realized that Jesus could do more with that little lunch than he could have ever done. Jesus can always do more than we could ever imagine. And where that starts is by asking Jesus in our hearts. When Jesus is in our hearts, then we can know what the Bible says: "***I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me***" - Paul, ***Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)***. That makes everybody important - even a little kid with a little lunch. God bless, guys!