

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Miracle of the loaves

14 ¹⁴When Jesus went ashore, he saw the crowd gathered there and he had compassion on them. And he healed their sick. ¹⁵Late in the afternoon, his disciples came to him and said:

—We are in a lonely place and it is now late. You should send these people away, so they can go to the villages and buy something for themselves to eat.

¹⁶But Jesus replied:

—They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat.

¹⁷They answered:

—We have nothing here but five loaves and two fishes. ¹⁸Jesus said to them:

—Bring them here to me.

¹⁹Then he made everyone sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fishes, raised his eyes to heaven, pronounced the blessing, broke the loaves and handed them to the disciples to distribute to the people. ²⁰And they all ate, and everyone had enough; then the disciples gathered up the leftovers, filling twelve baskets. ²¹About five thousand men had eaten there besides women and children.

²²Immediately Jesus obliged his disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he sent the crowd away.

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