

The Loaves And Fishes

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The New Testament is full of stories that are often parables or analogies which means that often there is an underlying meaning to the tale which is quite different from the story literally. This is the manner that Jesus and the Apostles explained things to the followers and on many occasions the said events were almost miracles, but for a different reason. The early writers of the scriptures tended to make some simple incidents quite dramatic, and take a type of "poetic license" to make things sound more grandiose than they really were in order to impress the faithful who seemed to need all sorts of signs and wonders as proof that they were living in special times and that angels were really walking among them. Perhaps it is a pity that they felt the need to be so extravagant in their descriptions of many of these "happenings" for it makes the "latter day" readers a bit skeptical about the miracles, thereby causing some doubt about the whole Story of Jesus.

The feeding of the multitudes, or the story of the loaves and the fishes is one such tale that can be found in the Book of Matthew, Chapter 15, and it tells the story of Jesus, preaching and healing to the disciples for several days on end. People came from all over to hear Him and to get healing for the sick and infirm and at times there were as many as 2,000 in attendance, (the Bible says over 4,000). However after some days Jesus felt that many had not had much to eat so before He sent them away He felt that some food was in order to help them on their journeys home. It must be remembered that though some were visitors, many were locally situated and could probably drop home to lunch if they felt like it. It was mainly the visitors that Jesus was concerned about so He questioned some of the helpers in respect to what food was available, and they told Him there was a few small fishes and seven loaves of bread, which did not seem much to feed 2,000 with. We are told that this was brought forward and Jesus prayed over it and it multiplied until there was sufficient to feed all of those present, and so was performed according to the historians.

Our spirit informants tell us the tale was slightly different from this and that what happened was this. It was the custom in those times for travellers out for the day to take dried fish, dates, bread, olives, and wine with them and among this great crowd of listeners some had food and some very little, so the helpers made a request that all foods available amongst the crowd be brought forward where it could be pooled and then evenly distributed among the tired and hungry, no doubt some of the people who lived near, dashed off home to get more to replenish the pile. Once it was all collected Jesus blessed it all, put it into seven baskets (lucky seven again) and all were fed. Yes, truly a miracle, and a strong lesson to be learned,

and that was sharing and the consecration of all goods which was one of the Lord's Commandments and it tells a strong story of what can be done by co-operation and the equal sharing of resources, and signifies generosity, love and nobility of the soul. We are delighted with this explanation and find it more tangible and believable that the over enthusiasm of those early reporters who often in all sincerity felt the need to gild the lily when it already was a thing of beauty.

This same story is symbolic of Jehovah feeding the children of Israel in the wilderness and can bring to ones mind how many other people are without food in our World today, and that in some parts of this Globe, food is that plentiful through over production that it is being "dumped" while in other famine areas millions are starving to death, so those who are well fed most of the time could suddenly start thinking of those who are unfortunate and hungry and may be inspired by the good news to help their ailing brothers.

Now looking at the story logically, no one in this day and age could possibly think they were Jesus and wave their hands over a small pile of food which would then become enough to feed thousands, but many could believe that they had enough among them for their own need and some to give to others, so one does not really need the power of a miracle to bring about this act, only a sense of love and responsibility towards all Mankind, and this is easier to bring into action, and in itself is indeed a miracle in these greedy times when self interests seem to prevail. An example of this in action was the Band Aid to Ethiopia in 1984 where people all around the World gave millions to be used for food for the starving peoples of Africa and this was followed swiftly by many other programmes so it seems then that miracles belong to God and are few and far between, but humanitarian aid to the oppressed and needy is possible immediately at any time and is in the realms of Man and by exercising this prerogative we help each other in reality, both physically and spiritually, proving the truthfulness of the Bible and that the advice laid down within it can be used successfully if one understands the text correctly.

Thanks to the immortality of Man's soul, one can go on from life to life learning the many great lessons that Jehovah has set before, so that we may have the opportunity to express the grace of God in honour and glory and when these epic tales of man's growth and development as a species are recorded then all of the future souls yet to be born again will gain confidence from the knowledge of these past exploits and know that all things are possible in a time when reason will prevail over all passions and Mankind will have attained a union of the body and spirit while still in the flesh and have total communion with the Spirit through the mind and be at one with Jehovah God.

Finally let us say that we don't believe we are adding to the scriptures, as some claim, only dusting off the cobwebs and sorting out that which is of Man and that which is of God. This is why we constantly pray, and urge others also to follow this advice and that is the promise given to all of us, that if any person lack wisdom (the art of using whatever faculties we have to the utmost in truthful discernment) then let them ask of God who will give liberally to all according to their need and understanding.