

MEETING THE NEED

MATTHEW 14:13-21

If God cares for you, why need you care too? Can you trust Him for your soul, and not for your body? He has never refused to bear your burdens, He has never fainted under their weight.

-Charles Spurgeon

I. The Good Shepherd

II. The Bread of Life

Getting to Know You:

1. Recall and share (if you can) a time when God miraculously provided for your needs.

Into the Bible:

2. In verse 14 Christ's compassion for the crowds that followed him is referenced again (Matthew 9:36). Isaiah 40:11 foretold this aspect of the Messiah's character. Jesus knew his audience having lived among them (Psalm 104:14-16) and still loved them and cared for their needs. How does this connect with what Hebrews 4:16 tells us?

Application:

3. In this instance, God, who can and does create *ex nihilo* (out of nothing), chose to use what was willingly provided, though obviously inadequate, to accomplish a miracle. What should that tell us about our own approach to ministry opportunities?

(II Corinthians 4:7, I Corinthians 1:25-29)

4. After recognizing their own inadequacy and watching God's provision, what further lesson were the disciples learning as they picked up the remains of the feast? What lesson should we take away from this?

(Ephesians 3:20)

For Families:

5. Talk with your children about God's ability to make much from very little.