

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus feeds thousands of people

By Joe Sarnicola

Jesus had been preaching to the people and healing those who were sick for most of the afternoon. When Jesus stopped to rest and to drink some water with his disciples, Andrew said: "Lord, the daylight will soon be gone, and we are far from town. You should dismiss the people so that they will return to their homes for supper."

Jesus looked up and smiled. "There is no need to send them home. The 12 of you can feed them."

Thomas immediately responded with a question.

"Us? How can we feed them? All we have left are five loaves of bread and two fish. Barely enough to feed ourselves."

"It will be enough," Jesus said. "Tell the people to sit with their families. We shall all eat together."

"But," Peter said, "there are at least 5,000 men here, and twice as many more women and children."

"I will say it again, Peter," Jesus replied. "We have enough. Now call the people together."

The disciples organized the crowd of people into small groups. Jesus stood up on the small hill where he had been preaching and motioned with his hands for everyone to sit down.

When the people were comfortable, Jesus said: "My friends, we have spent this beautiful day together, and my Father has blessed us with healing for those who were sick. Now, it is only fitting that we should share a meal together. God has given enough food for a feast."



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

When Jesus said this the disciples looked at the basket that contained two fish and five small loaves of bread and then at each other. They could only wonder how that would be enough for a feast.

"Father," Jesus prayed. "We are grateful for the blessings you have given to us today. Now we ask that you would bless this food we are about to eat."

Jesus called his disciples over and filled basket after basket with bread and fish, which they then passed out to the people. The people ate as if they

were all one family sitting around the table in their own homes. They laughed, they shared stories, they made new friends.

When the feast was over and the people prepared for the walk home, they picked up the uneaten scraps and put them into baskets. Everyone had had enough to eat, and what was not eaten filled 12 more baskets.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Matthew 14

Q&A

1. What did the disciples want the people to do?
2. How much food was left over?

Bible Accent

Jesus was always concerned about the needs of the people who came to hear him preach. One time he fed the crowd with only a few fish and five loaves of bread.

But there are other stories in the Bible in which hungry people were fed because God was watching over them. Probably the best known example is when God sent manna from heaven when the Israelites were wandering the wilderness on their way from Egypt to the Promised Land. When Elijah was hungry, ravens brought him bread and meat (1 Kings 17). Psalm 146 says, "The maker of heaven and earth ... gives food to the hungry."

But there is one type of hunger God wants us to have, and which Jesus said comes with a reward. "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied." (Matthew 5)

St. Peter Chrysologus

St. Peter Chrysologus was born about the year 400 in Imola, Italy. Details of his life are sketchy, but he became the archbishop of Ravenna, Italy, about the year 433.

As archbishop, St. Peter became known for the sermons he preached. A number of his sermons still exist, and he became known as "Chrysologus," which means "of the golden word." Because the sermons often apply moral teachings to daily life, they give us a picture of what Christian life was like in Ravenna back then.

St. Peter died around the year 450, and was declared a doctor of the church in 1729. We remember him on July 30.

Puzzle

Unscramble the following Bible verse:
Answers on page 12.

heyt halls ont herngu ro strith

Bible Trivia

What does the church call a person who reads aloud the non-Gospel Scripture readings during Mass?

Send Answer to: *Catholic Courier Bible Trivia*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

All entries must be received by Aug. 5, 1999. A prize winner will be selected at random from the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was **Christina Deleón**, a student at Nazareth Hall Middle School in Rochester. She correctly identified Haggai and Malachi as the Old Testament books before and after the Book of Zechariah.



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