

## The Feeding Of The 5000

One day Jesus and his twelve very special friends decided it was time to have a bit of a holiday. Everywhere they went crowds of people always gathered because they wanted to hear Jesus speak or to have him touch sick people and make them well. Jesus was tired and needed a break.

"Where can we go?" one of Jesus friends asked. "People follow us everywhere." "I know," said Jesus. "Lets go out into the desert. We can take some food and water. No one will follow us out there!"

So they packed some food and water and set off. They found a quiet hillside and, after they had built something to give them some shade, they settled down and ate their lunch.

All that afternoon they were alone. Jesus talked with them, telling them all about God and heaven. None of them wanted him to stop. Suddenly though one of them looked up and was amazed by what he saw. Coming toward them across the sandy dunes and hills was a great crowd of people. Men and women and children. When they saw Jesus and his friends many of them started to run even though it was very hot. They were desperate to reach Jesus.

Jesus friends were rather annoyed.

"Can't we go anywhere to get away from these people!" they thought to themselves. But Jesus knew what he had to do.

The people arrived and Jesus spoke to them. He touched the sick people and made them well. Everyone was amazed at what Jesus did and said. None of them realised how time was slipping away.

Suddenly one of Jesus friends said: "Jesus, we really ought to send these people away to get some food. If they don't go soon all the shops will be shut up for the night and they will go hungry."

But to his surprise Jesus said something rather strange: "You give them something to eat."

"B, B, B, But," he stammered, "I haven't got anything, and it would take about 8 months wages to buy enough food for all these people to have even a bite to eat!"

Suddenly another of Jesus friends came rushing up. He seemed quite excited. "I've found a small boy with a packed lunch!" he spluttered as he rummaged in a small bag. "He's got five bread rolls and two small fish," but then he looked at the crowd. "Er err, but how far will they go among all these people?" he said as he started to feel a bit silly.

"Well lets see shall we?" said Jesus.

Jesus told the people to sit down on the ground. There were more than 5000 people there.

Then Jesus picked up the bread rolls and said a prayer. He said: "Dear God, all these people are hungry and this is all we've got. As we share it out please make it enough." Then he broke up the bread rolls and Jesus friends started to share the bread out among the people.

And do you know, to their surprise they shared, and shared, and shared and shared. Every time they reached down to get more bread there was more there until eventually every person had had enough bread to eat.

Jesus did the same with the two fish and exactly the same happened again. Every person had enough to eat. And, do you know, when they went around picking up the crumbs and the left over bits they found that there was much more left than they had started with in the first place.

The people were amazed.

"Jesus is wonderful!" they said. "We should make him King then we would never run out of bread!"

But Jesus sent them away. He knew he would be made a king, but not in the way they wanted.

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