

“Our Sufficient Savior”

Luke 9:10-17

Pastor John Miller

I. Introduction

- A. There are more than thirty miracles of Christ recorded in one or more of the four gospels, but only one of those miracles is recorded by all four of the gospels. It is the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand.
 - 1. This miraculous picnic feast no doubt made a great impression on all who witnessed it
 - 2. It’s a favorite story of both children and adults
 - 3. It brings the Galilean ministry of Christ to its climax. This was the hour of the greatest popularity of Jesus. The multitudes would have offered Him a crown, but He saw before Him the shadow of the cross

II. The Setting of our Story (Luke 9:10-17)

- A. Herod’s confusion (vv. 7-9)
 - 1. A conviction for his sin
- B. Why did Jesus take His disciples to a deserted place? (v. 10)
 - 1. The report of John’s death
 - a) (Matthew 14:13)
 - 2. The disciples need rest after their preaching tour (Mark 6:31)
 - 3. The people followed Him (v. 11)
 - 4. “He was moved with compassion” (Matthew 14:14)
 - 5. The people needed compassion (v. 11)
 - a) He received them
 - 6. The people needed truth (v. 11)
 - a) He spoke to them
 - 7. The people needed healing (v. 11)
 - a) He healed them
 - 8. The people also needed food

III. Jesus our Savior is Sufficient to Meet Every Need (Luke 9:12-13)

- A. “The disciples counseled Jesus to send the multitude away” (v. 12)
 - 1. They saw the people as a problem. Jesus saw them as sheep in need of a shepherd.
 - 2. They saw:
 - a) A big crowd
 - b) It’s getting late (v. 12)
 - c) No food or lodging (v. 12)
 - d) Send them away (v. 12)
 - 3. They only saw a mess and forgot the Master
 - a) We also want God to send our problems away
- B. What did Jesus do? (v.13)
 - 1. Jesus fed them (v. 13)

2. Luke doesn't mention Jesus' question to Philip
 - a) "Where can we buy bread that these may eat?" (John 6:5)
 - b) Jesus asked it to test him, for he knew himself what he would do (John 6:6)
 - c) Jesus was testing His disciples
3. How did they do?
 - a) They failed
 - b) They looked at their own resources and abilities and forgot Jesus. They calculated but forgot to count Jesus in their calculations (v.13)
4. Luke doesn't tell us where the five loaves of bread and two fish come from
 - a) Illustration- Story of Andrew and the little boy
 - b) We do the same thing as the disciples when facing a problem. We take stock of our limited resources, strengths, and abilities and find them entirely inadequate; we are filled with despair and say, "It can't be done."
 - 1) We look at our power to overcome sin
 - 2) We look at our marriage
 - 3) Our health
 - 4) Our lack of money
 - 5) Our ministry to reach the lost world
 - 6) The needs in the church
 - 7) We forget Jesus, His love, compassion, power, and provision

IV. Christ's All Sufficient Power (Luke 9:14-16)

- A. God can use a very small thing if it is given to Him
 1. The five loaves were barley (John 6:9)
 - a) The cheapest, most despised bread
 2. Illustration- David and his sling and stones
 3. Even little things are much when put in His hand (v. 16)
 - a) Jesus only worked when the loaves and fish were placed in His hands
 4. I wonder how willing the boy was to give up his lunch
 5. Miracles happen in His hands
 - a) (Psalm 46:10)
- B. God wants to use us to bring the bread of life to a needy world (v. 16)
 1. Jesus did what the disciples could not do. He multiplied the food and did what the disciples couldn't do- multiply the food
 2. In the other miracles, the disciples were spectators, but here they were participants
 3. Jesus wants us to preach. He still says to us, "Give them something to eat"
- C. What God blesses, He also breaks (v. 16)
 1. He looked up
 2. Broke and blessed
 3. All He had was five loaves and two fish, yet He blessed the Father
 4. God breaks us to bless us and use us

V. The Miraculous Supply (Luke 9:17)

- A. It was suitable
 1. They did eat

2. Who? All the people
- B. It was satisfying, and they were all filled
- C. It was sufficient
 1. “There was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets” (v. 17)
 2. Give, and it shall be given unto you
 - a) As they gave, the supply grew

VI. Conclusion

- A. Jesus is sufficient to meet all our needs
- B. Our greatest need is not food, it is salvation
 1. Illustration- “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35).