

Reading: Matthew Chapter 14; John Chapter 6: 1-14

To day we are going to learn about how Jesus fed a big crowd of people who were hungry.

Jesus and his disciples were tired and in need of a rest, but the people flocked around them and they found it difficult to get away alone; so one day, Jesus suggested they get into a boat and sail from Capernaum across the lake to the other side, where Jesus hoped to have some quiet time to pray to God, and where his disciples could rest.

It was a time when everyone was travelling up towards Jerusalem, and there were many more people than usual crowding the shores of Galilee on their way South. They had heard about the wonderful things Jesus was doing, and they were anxious to see him. When they found that they had missed him, they were very disappointed, but their determination to see Jesus was so great that they decided to walk round the northern end of the lake, so when Jesus and the disciples arrived in their boat, they were waiting for him.

So Jesus didn't get any rest; but he didn't grumble at the people, so Jesus spent the day healing the sick people. As the day wore on, the people would begin to get hungry. They had come in such a hurry they had not brought anything to eat with him and there was nowhere where food could be bought. Philip, one of the disciples, said they couldn't possibly feed such a big crowd, this showed very little faith in Jesus' eyes. Then Andrew another of the disciples said there is a little boy here, who has five barley loaves and two small fishes; but there are too many people.

Jesus ordered that the people sit down in groups of fifty. Jesus first gave thanks to God for providing the food, and then began to hand out to his disciples portions of bread and fish to hand out to the people, and it only came to an end when everyone had been served. When it was all over, Jesus asked the disciples to collect the fragments, and there remained 12 basketsful.

Jesus was able to perform this miracle because he was the Son of God. If we trust in God, he will always look after us and provide us with our daily food, but we must always remember to say "THANK YOU" for it.

Jesus then allowed his tired disciples to get back into the boat and set sail while Jesus sent the people away. Jesus then walked towards the hills, to seek his Father in prayer.

