



Midweek Study Notes

27th February 2022

Prepared by Mark

Feeding the Multitude

Focusing on what little we can offer to the Lord

During the service we looked at the familiar story of the feeding of the 5000 with 5 barley loaves and 2 small fish and the feeding of the 4000 with 7 loaves and some fish. The feeding of the 5000 is mentioned in all the gospels and it is only in John do we read of the boy handing over his food.



Spend sometime reading one or more of the accounts.

Feeding 5000 Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15

Feeding 4000 Matthew 15:32-39; Mark 8:1-10

It is always interesting to look at what happened before and immediately after a significant event such as this.

Before the event Matthew and Mark, for example, report about Jesus' cousin John the Baptist being beheaded and afterwards the disciples struggling in the boat as Jesus walked on the water towards them. What a challenge for Jesus at a time in His life when he was grieving and what an example of faith - feeding 5000 and a lack of faith on the disciples part struggling in the boat and being terrified.

[Have you ever been in a similar situation where you have faced a major challenge? Or seen/heard/experienced a great miracle/act of faith then straight away faced a difficult situation when your faith has been tested?](#)

Mark and Luke record that Jesus had sent out the 12 disciples on a 'mission outreach trip' giving them "the power and authority to drive out demons and cure diseases, and He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick" Luke 9:1b-2.

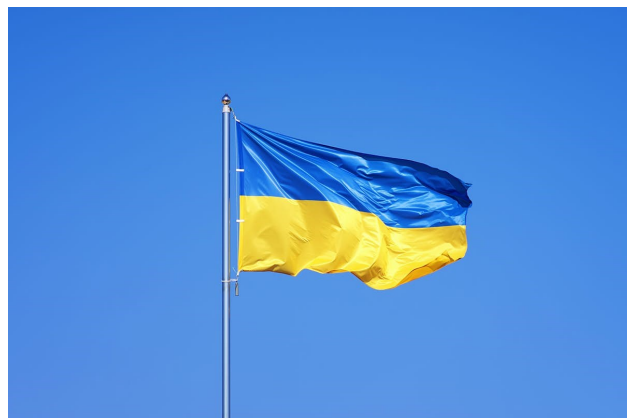
[So why when faced with the challenge of feeding the 5000 did the disciples question Jesus when He said you feed them? Have you ever been faced with a seemingly impossible task and been asked to do something about it? Relate this to the current situation in the Ukraine. What should we be focusing our attention on? Is our Christian faith being tested like the disciples in the story?](#)

John's account of the event is the only one to mention the boy giving the loaves and fish. Then having blessed them Jesus instructed the disciples to feed the 5000 men plus women plus the children. What the little the boy gave was multiplied.

The theme of multiplication runs throughout the Bible. What cannot be achieved by addition, God does by multiplication. You reap what you sow, only many times more. What you give to the Lord, he multiplies.

[Consider other examples of God's mathematical genius either from the Bible or in your personal life.](#)

With the every changing situation in the Ukraine perhaps spend an extended time in prayer for the people, the soldiers on both sides, the politicians around the world as they seek ways to resolve the situation.



A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

