



[Matthew 14:16-19](#)

(16) But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." (17) And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." (18) He said, "Bring them here to Me." (19) Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.

[Mark 6:37-41](#)

(37) But He answered and said to them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them *something* to eat?" (38) But He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they found out they said, "Five, and two fish." (39) Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. (40) So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties. (41) And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave *them* to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among *them* all.

[Luke 9:13-16](#)

(13) But He said to them, "You give them something to eat." And they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people." (14) For there were about five thousand men. Then He said to His disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of fifty." (15) And they did so, and made them all sit down. (16) Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke *them*, and gave *them* to the disciples to set before the multitude.

John 6:11

(11) And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed *them* to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.

New King James Version

Christ performs the miracle, but for both practical and spiritual reasons, His disciples present the food to the people. It was more organized and took less time to distribute the food this way than by doing it Himself. More importantly, [Jesus](#) and His disciples were becoming a team, and it was essential that they share in His work to have firsthand experience. Their involvement in Christ's generous, compassionate, loving act of providence would be a lasting memory to fuel their [faith](#) and zeal in their future apostolic work.

Jesus' miracle provided them an opportunity to serve Him, while teaching us lessons in responsible service. Though [God](#) does not need us, He gives us the privilege and blessing to be involved in His service. Some people do not wish to be encumbered by a duty at church, but this is a wrong perspective of service. God provides opportunities to serve so that we might experience great blessing.

The disciples had a responsibility to give to the people what Christ had given them. When God gives to us, we are to share faithfully with others, not hoard His gifts for ourselves. Ministers are to preach the whole [truth](#) of God and not change the message or withhold parts of it ([Acts 20:27](#)). Church members should look out for the welfare of others, sharing our blessings. If we are wealthy with every spiritual blessing ([Ephesians 1:3](#)), we should pass them on to others by living God's way of life as a witness.

— Martin G. Collins

To learn more, see:

[The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Feeding the Five Thousand \(Part One\)](#)

Related Topics:

[Compassion](#)

[Generosity](#)

[Godly Service](#)

[Jesus Christ's Miracles: Feeding of Five Thousand](#)

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Matthew 14:16-19 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

[Miracles of Jesus Christ: Feeding of 5000](#)

[Spiritual Blessings](#)

[Spiritual Gifts](#)

Commentary copyright © 1992-2016 [Church of the Great God](#)
New King James Version copyright © 1982 by [Thomas Nelson, Inc.](#)