

## Peace Offering - Feeding the 5,000

(**Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15**)

One message of the peace offering is that God provides over and above what we need.

**Matthew 14:15-16** - "When evening arrived, his disciples came to him saying, 'This is an isolated place and the hour is already late. Send the crowds away so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' But he replied, 'They don't need to go. You give them something to eat.'

**John 6:7** - "Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little."

"200 pennyworth" = About eight months' pay

**John 6:9** - "There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?"

This reminds me of the 5 smooth stones David picked up when confronting Goliath. (**1 Samuel 17**)

In fact, Caleb and Joshua had said of the giants of Canaan previously, "do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread" (**Numbers 14:7-9**)

Children - no status really in ancient society. Ignored usually - except Jesus said 'suffer the little children..'. God was going to use someone that everyone else overlooked to perform a miracle.

This lad *sacrificed* - giving up his food for the benefit of Jesus. The peace offering requires sacrifice.

Because these were barley loaves, the poor man's bread, they are not an exact counterpart to the peace offering. Barley loaves were used for the omer count after Passover - they represent the first fruit-offering, and therefore Jesus' resurrection. But Passover typifies all the offerings.

As Jesus distributed the bread and fishes, the supply never ran out. In fact there were 12 baskets full left over of the barley loaves.

Maybe each of the 12 disciples were left holding a basket full of barley loaves, proving to them the point of this miracle - Jesus can always provide enough, and more.

**John 6:12** - "When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."

"lost" = *appollymi* - destroyed, perish, put to death, ruined, abolished - therefore also wasted.

Interesting choice of words

If we hold fast the evidence of God's sufficiency in Christ, we can never be lost, never destroyed eternally, or feel wasted in our work in this life, because we understand He fulfilled the peace offering.

12 baskets, 12 tribes, 12 fruits of healing from the Tree of Life in the New Jerusalem:

**Revelation 22:2** - "The tree of life was on each side of the river, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree are for healing the nations"

**John 10:10** - "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"

**Ephesians 3:20-21** - "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

When Jesus says "you give them something to eat" - we can turn to Him for the supply.

We are usually watching and waiting for the basket to run out. We should instead be expectantly looking for how Jesus will fill it. Then in thanksgiving we celebrate the peace offering.

**2 Corinthians 9:8** - "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work"

There is no lack in Christ.