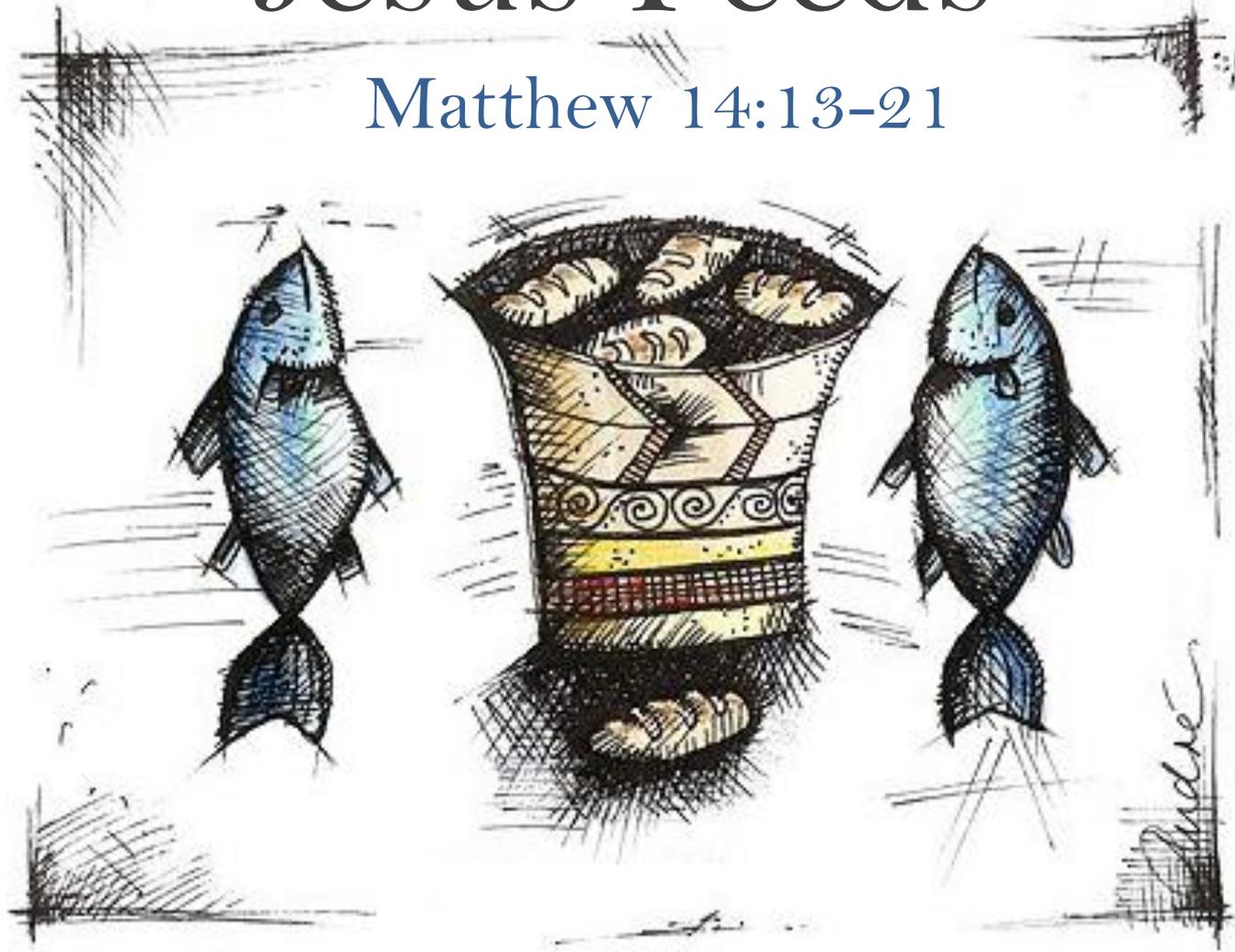


Jesus Feeds

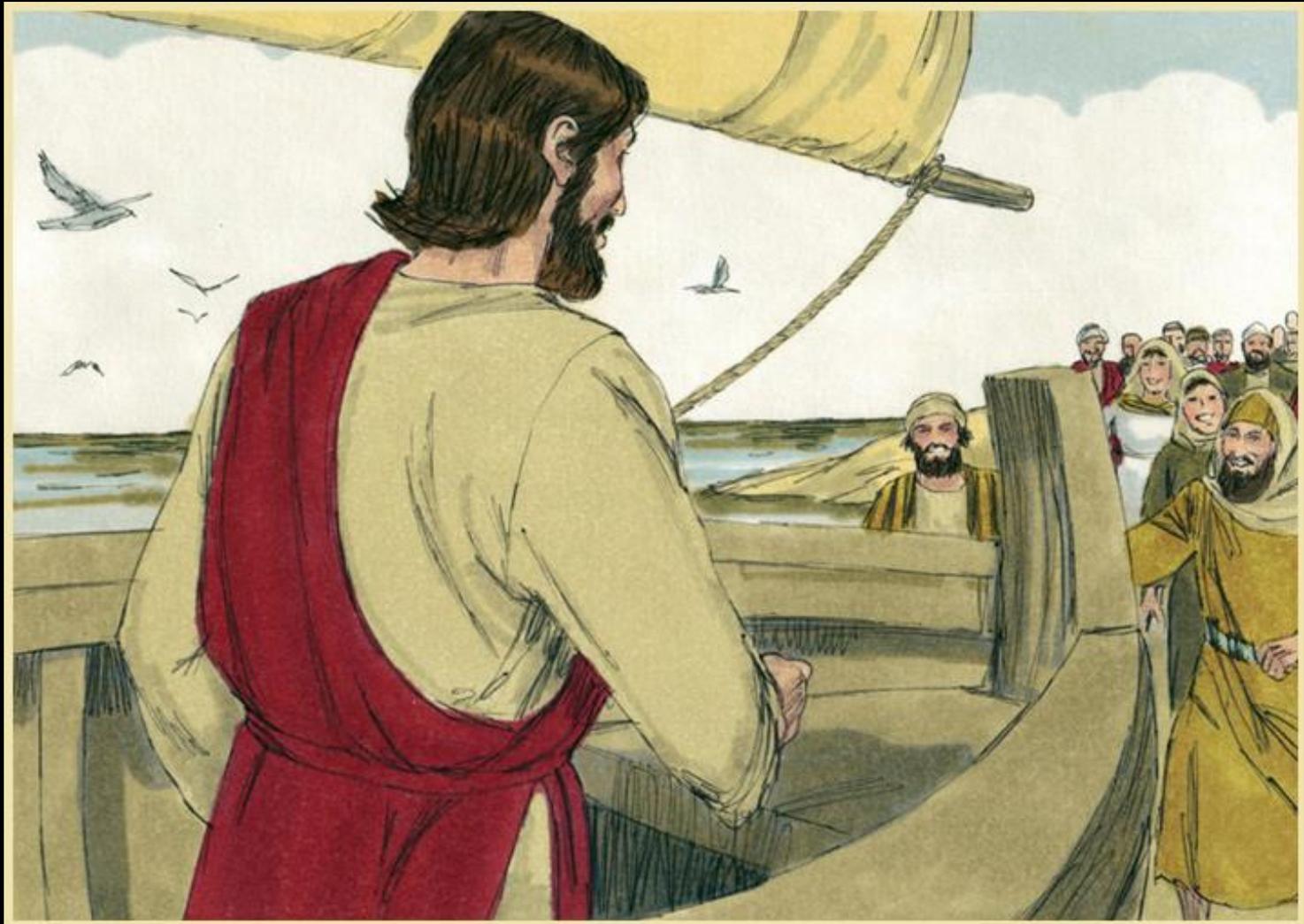
Matthew 14:13-21



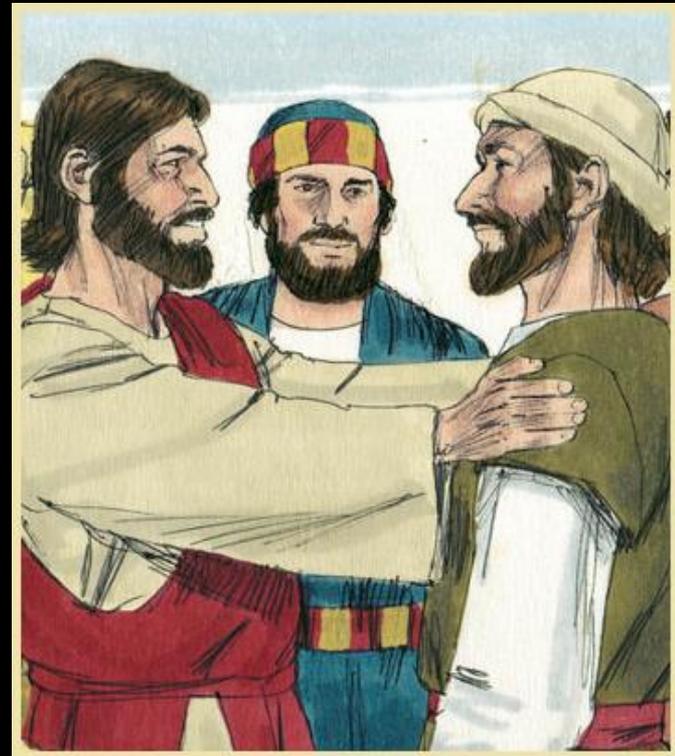
Jesus left in a boat to a remote area to be alone.
But the crowds heard where he was headed and
followed on foot from many towns. (13-14)



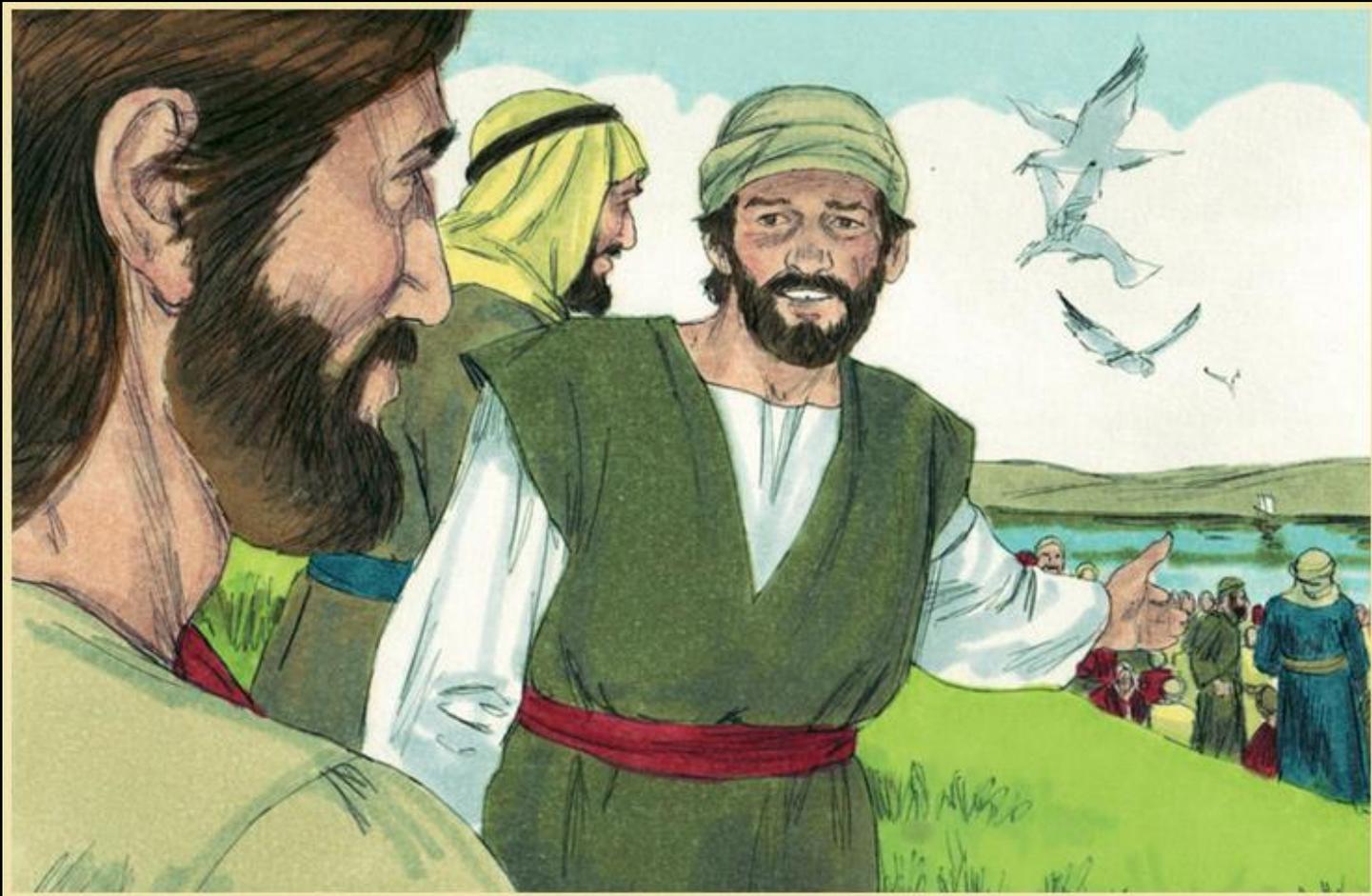
Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped
from the boat...(14)



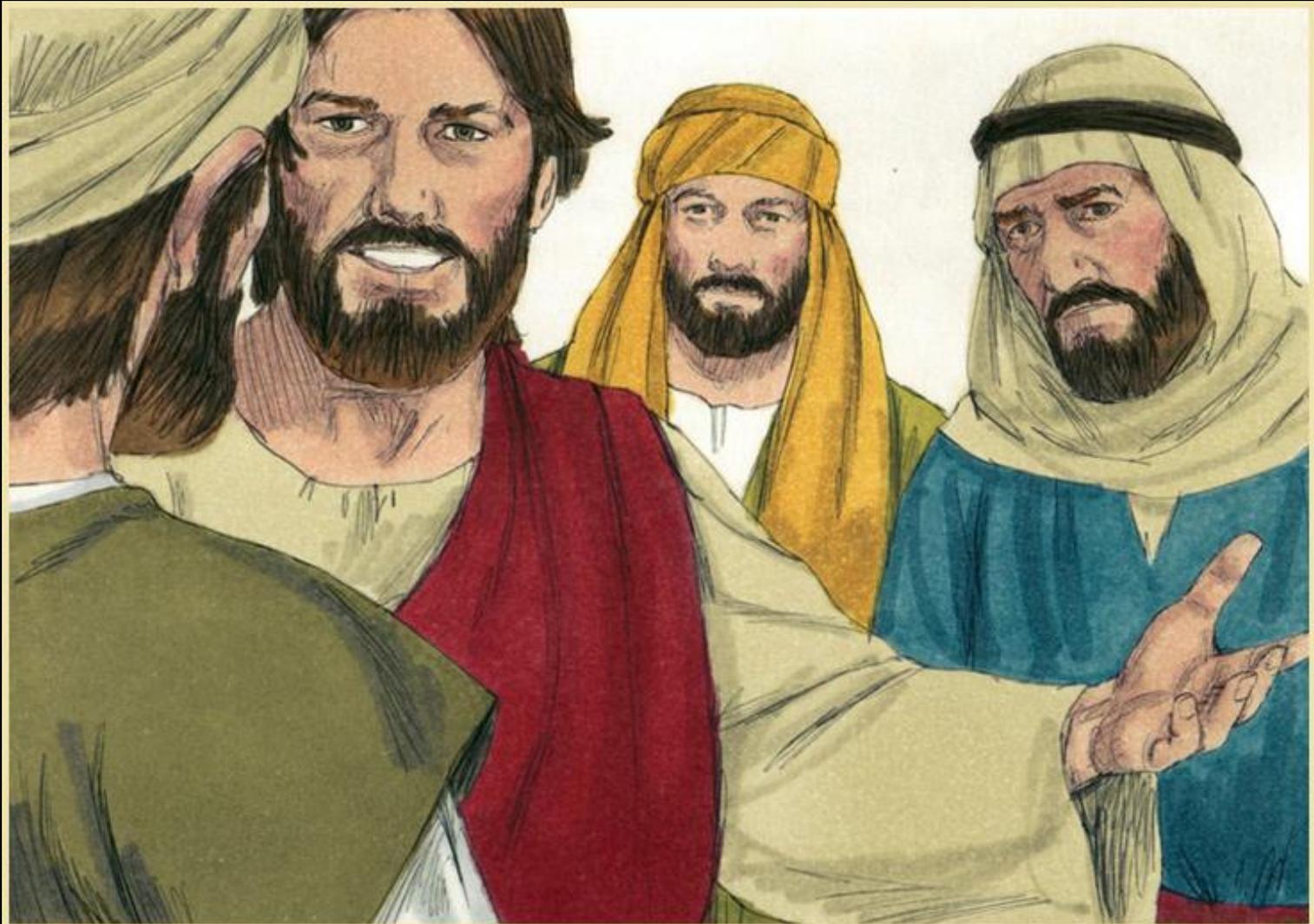
...and he had compassion on them and
healed their sick. (14)



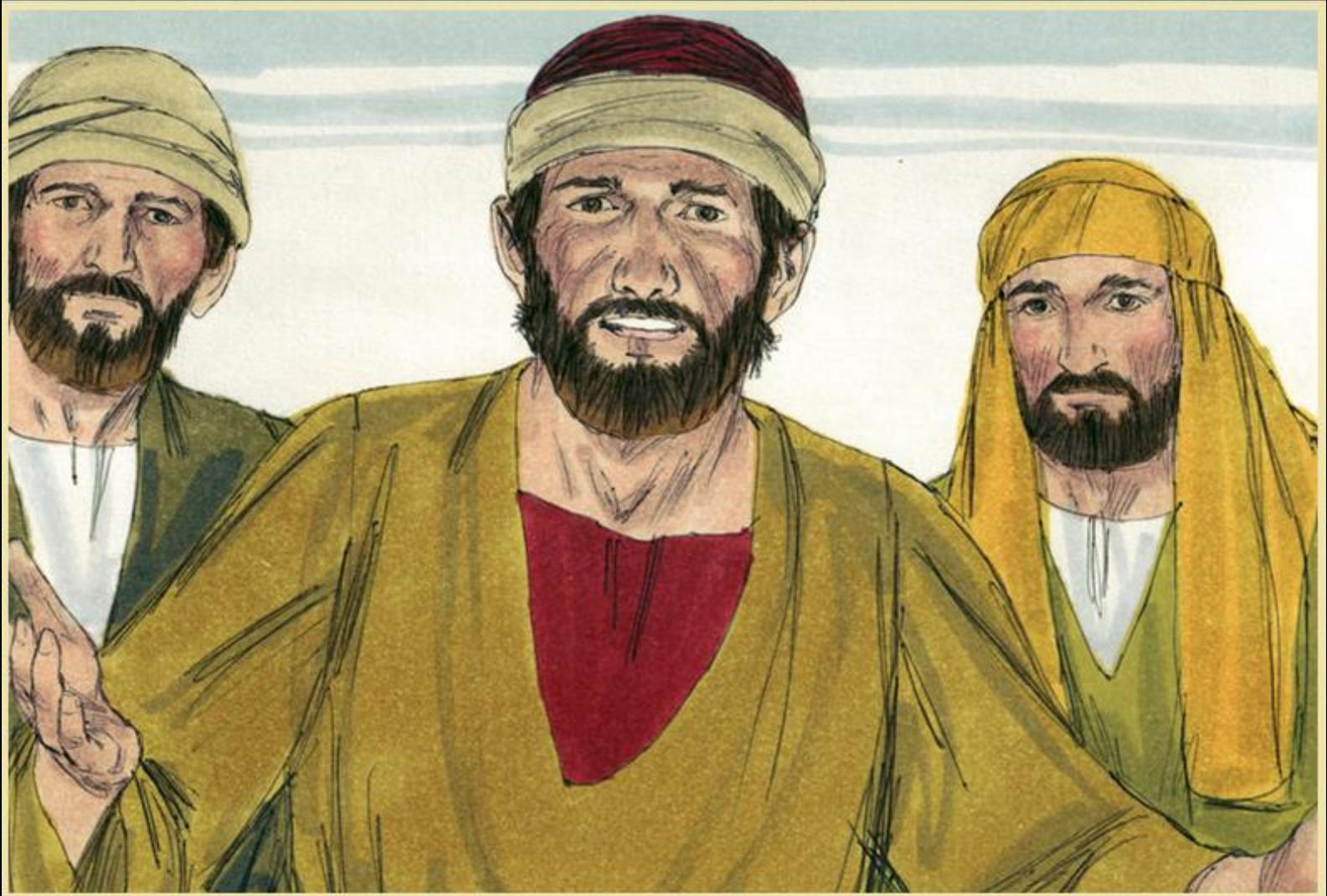
That evening the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves.”(15)



But Jesus said, “That isn’t necessary—
you feed them.” (16)



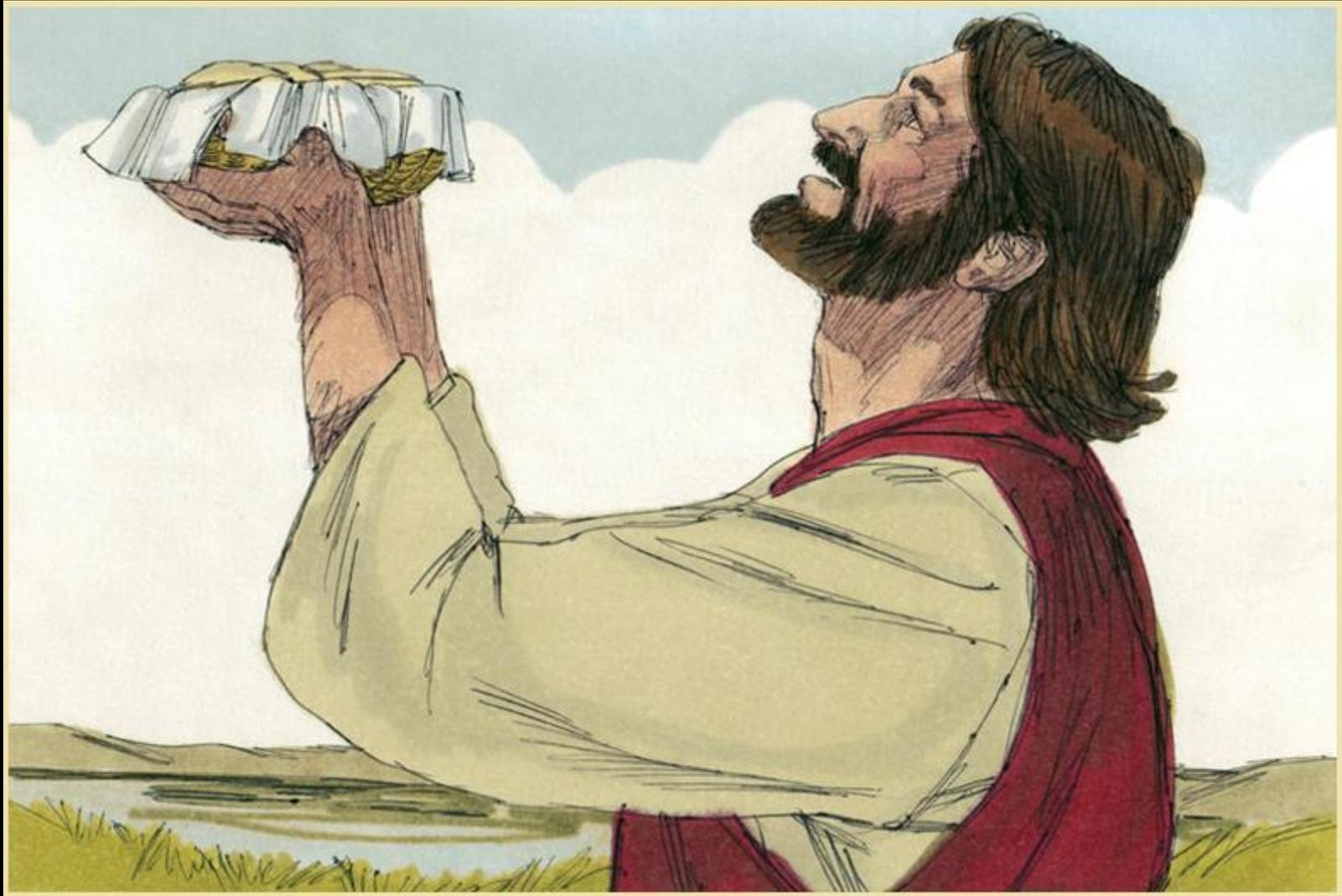
“But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!” they answered. (16-17)



“Bring them here,” he said. Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. (19a)



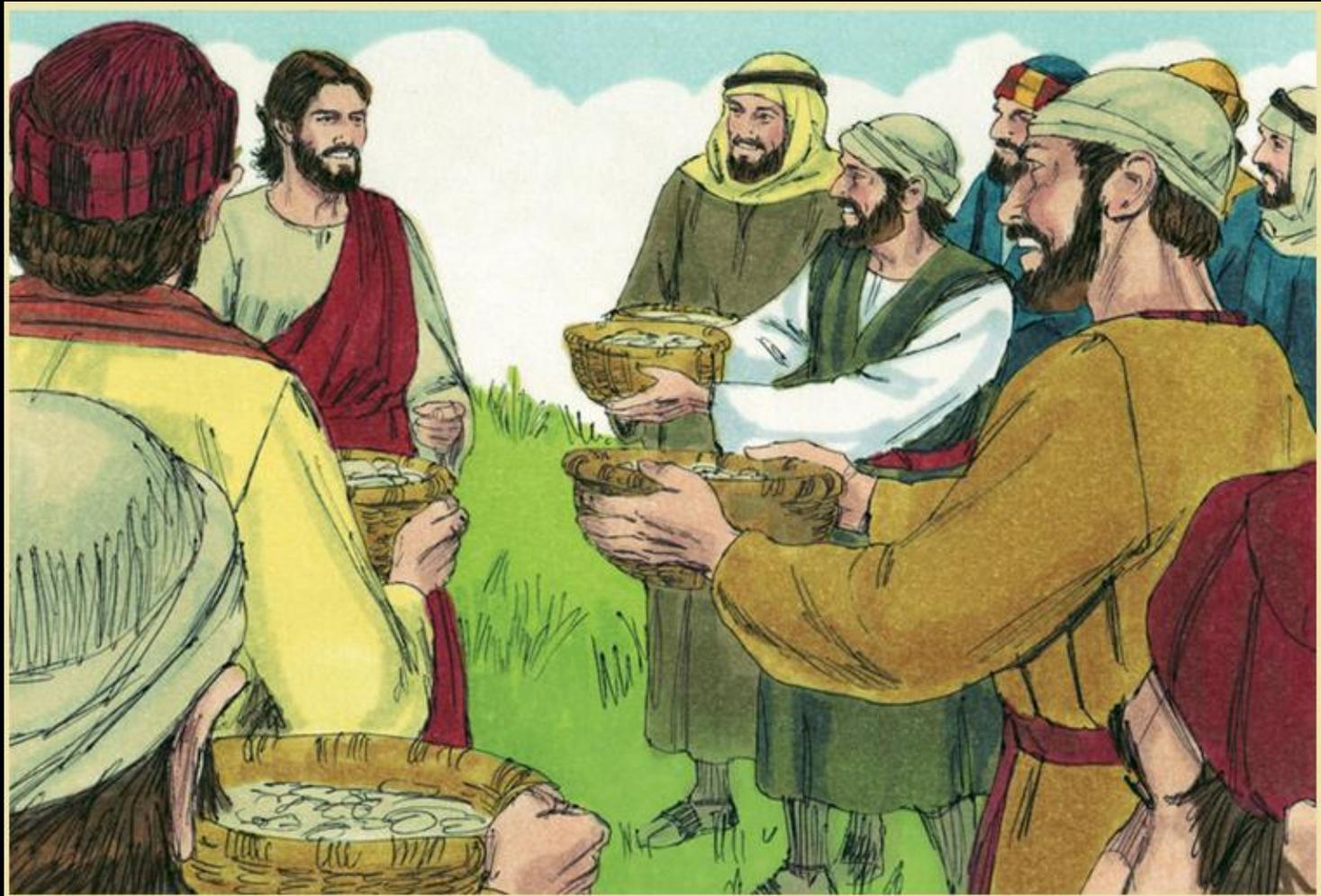
Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. (19b)



Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. (19c)



They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. (20)



About 5,000 men were fed
that day, in addition to all
the women and children!

(21)

Then Jesus
performs a
nearly identical
miracle one
chapter later.

Matt 15:30-39

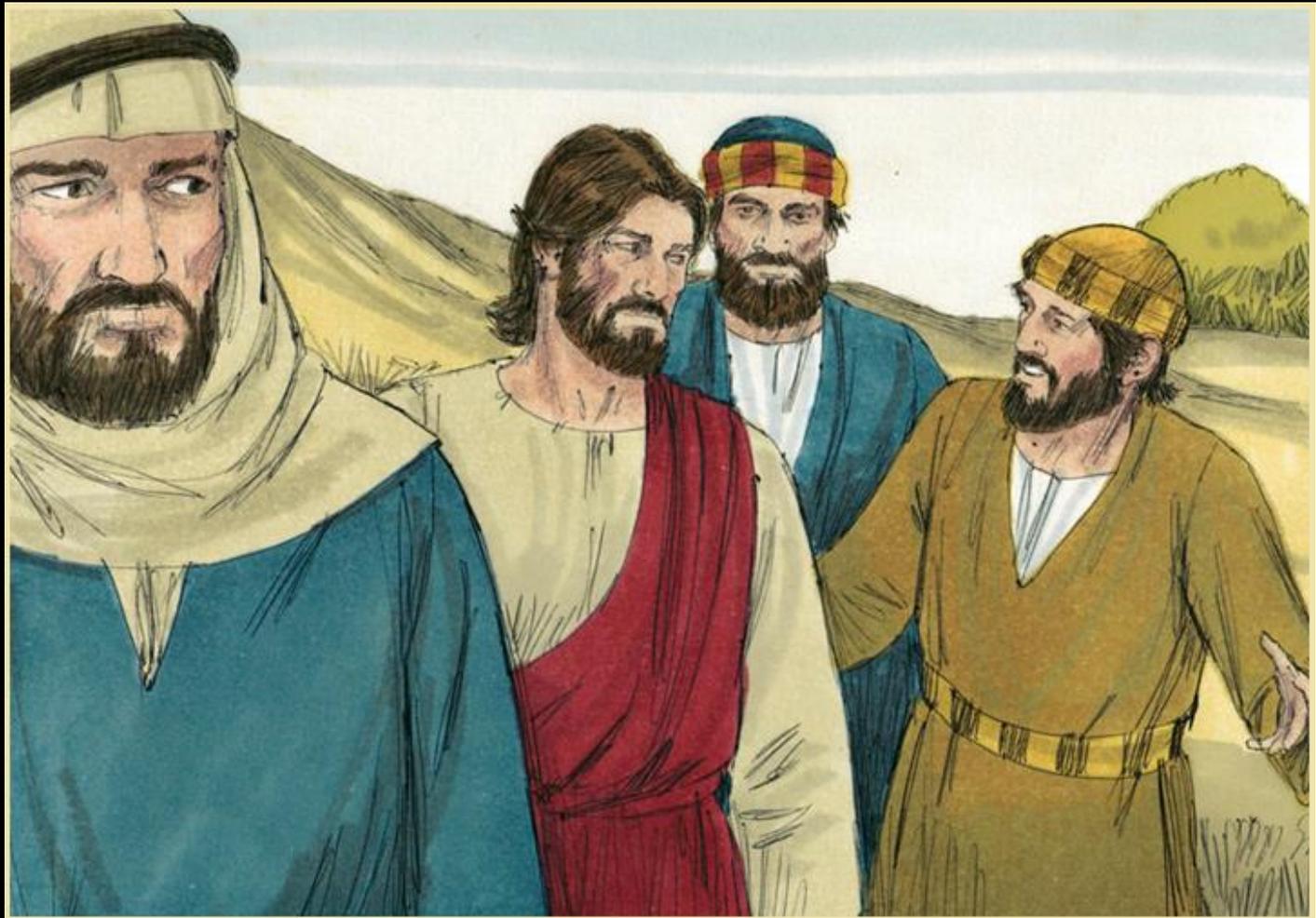


A vast crowd brought to him people who were lame, blind, crippled, those who couldn't speak, and many others. They laid them before Jesus, and he healed them all.

The crowd was amazed! Those who hadn't been able to speak were talking, the crippled were made well, the lame were walking, and the blind could see again! And they praised the God of Israel.

Then Jesus called his disciples and told them, “I feel sorry for these people. They have been here with me for three days, and they have nothing left to eat. I don’t want to send them away hungry, or they will faint along the way.”

The disciples replied, “Where would we get enough food here in the wilderness for such a huge crowd?”



Jesus asked, “How much bread do you have?” They replied, “Seven loaves, and a few small fish.” So Jesus told all the people to sit down on the ground.

Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, thanked God for them, and broke them into pieces. He gave them to the disciples, who distributed the food to the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted.

Afterward, the disciples picked up seven large baskets of leftover food. There were 4,000 men who were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children.

what?



CAN

WE

LEARN

From

THIS

#1 Jesus is compassionate!

(Matt 14:14 and 15:32)



...he had **compassion** on them and healed their sick.

(14) **I feel sorry** for these people. (32)

Jesus wants to be compassionate to YOU. He wants to show YOU mercy and kindness.



He wants you to draw near to him; just as the crowds did, so that he can show you the same care and concern.



#2 The crowds drew near to Jesus.

(Matt 14:14 and 15:30)



the crowds heard where
he was headed and
followed (14) A vast
crowd brought to him
people who were lame
(30)

Draw near to God, and he will
draw near to you.

James 4:8



But there is a right and
wrong way to draw near
to God...



“Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you.”

John 6:26-27

You ask and do not receive,
because you ask with wrong
motives, so that you may
spend it on your pleasures.

You adulteresses!

James 4:3-4



THE RIGHT WAY

Means drawing near to God...because
**God is the ever satisfying solution to
my problems...**

WRONG WAY

Means drawing near to God...because
what God may give me is what I think
is the ever satisfying solution to my
problems...

#3 Jesus heals those in need!

(Matt 14:14 and 15:30-31)



...he had compassion on
them and healed their
sick. (14) and he healed
them all. (30)

A silhouette of a person sitting on the floor in a dark room, leaning against a wall. The person is wearing a hooded sweatshirt and pants. The background is a bright, glowing light source, possibly a window or doorway, which creates a strong contrast with the dark foreground. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

Jesus wants to heal your
illnesses!

Only Jesus can heal us from the
disease of sin and self.

Addictions?

Always putting
yourself first?

*Can stop thinking
dirty thoughts?*

Struggle to value yourself?

Can't find time to read the Bible or pray?

#4 Jesus did not want the people to leave!

(Matt 14:16 and 15:32)



**Send the crowds away so
they can go to the villages
and buy food for
themselves... ‘That isn’t
necessary’ (16) ‘I don’t want
to send them away’ (32)**

"Come to me, all you who are weary and
burdened, and I will give you rest."

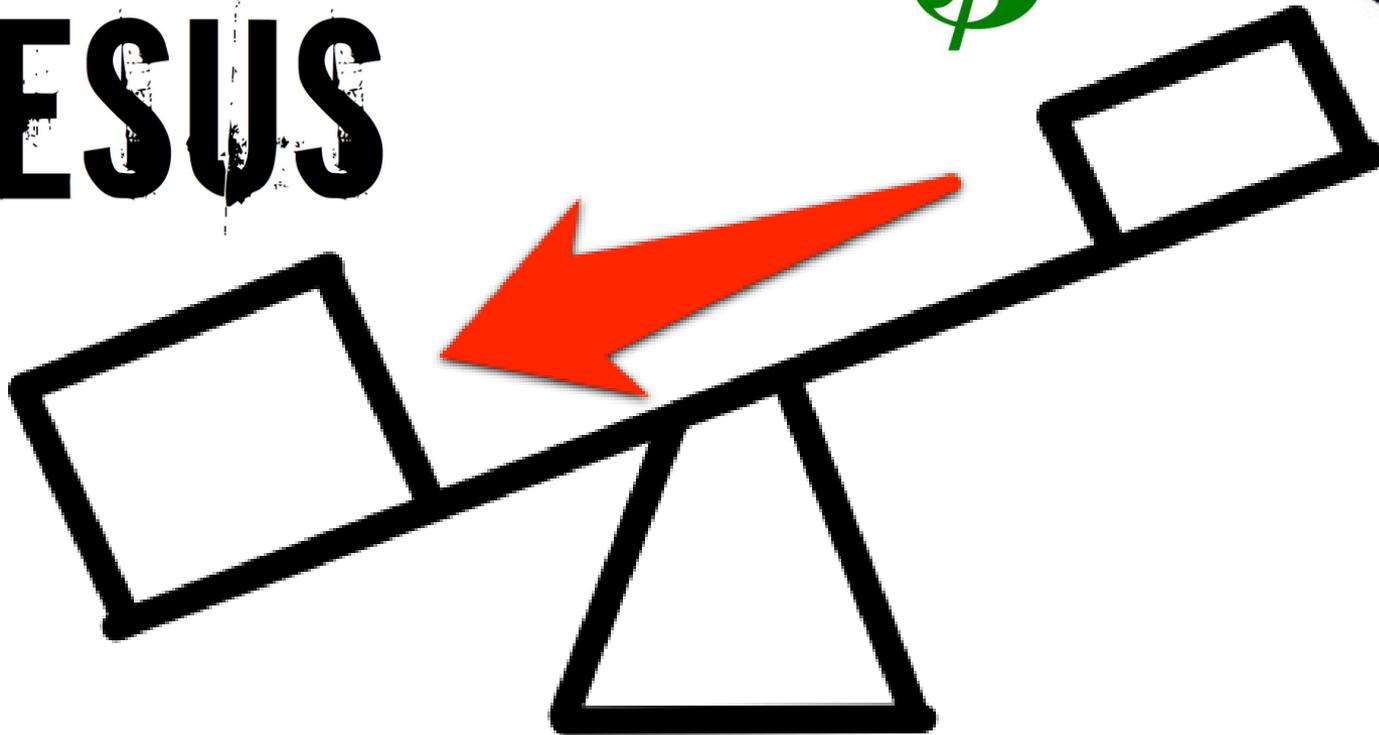
Matt 11:28



Jesus can, will and wants to meet all our needs and satisfy us completely!

JESUS

\$ people **STUFF**



Jesus doesn't want us wandering
around looking for satisfaction
elsewhere.



“This is
a remote place...”
(v15)



Erēmos: Desolate, desert place



One of the greatest problems we face is that: America doesn't feel like a desolate place...



It would serve us well to realize
that there is nothing here that can
satisfy.



*“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the **spring of living water**, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”*

Jeremiah 2:13

*God is a
spring of living water.*



A spring that can give life to dead bones, nourishment to a starving soul.



*It is a great sin not to
thirst for this great
fountain.*



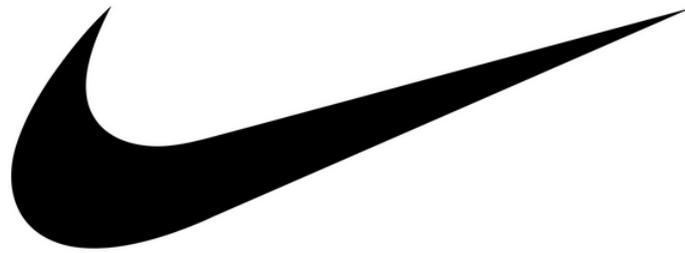
“Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty...Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink...
(Jn 6:35, 7:37)



*It is a great sin to thirst
after inadequate springs.*



*The inadequate springs of
this world...*



*It is a great tragedy
when our quest for
power and wisdom
stops short of God...*

Because God is a treasure of power and a treasure of wisdom infinitely greater than any of the things that excite you in this world.

One of the reasons God created
bread—or created the grain and
the water and yeast and fire
and human intelligence to make
it, and I mean the really good
kind...

...is so that when Jesus Christ came into the world, he would be able to use the enjoyment of bread and the nourishment of bread as an illustration of what it means to believe on him and be satisfied with him.

Bread exists to help us know what it is like to be satisfied in Jesus. This is true for water (John 4:14) and every other good thing that God has made. Every partial satisfaction in this life points to the perfect satisfaction in Jesus who made the world.

(John Piper)

#5 Jesus uses a small amount of food
to feed a large crowd of people!

(Matt 14:17 and 15:34)



‘...we have only five loaves
of bread and two fish!’(17)

‘Seven loaves, and a few
small fish.’ (34)

God can and will use anything and anyone...even **YOU**, to have incredible, massive, eternal impact.



You!

If God used...

Drunk Noah

Lying Abraham

Blabbering Moses

Marching trumpets to bring
down Jericho

Adulterous, husband killer, David

A talking donkey

Five loaves , two fish

Christian killer, Paul

Then he can use...

You!



#6 The Disciples and the people did not have any ability to remedy the situation. What they did have would never be enough.



You and I have no ability to help our situation. We have no ability to heal ourselves, satisfy ourselves, **and neither do the towns near by.**

We have no power to overcome
our illnesses and
weaknesses...nor to satisfy the
deepest hunger of our souls.

Didn't the Disciples just see Jesus feed 5,000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fish in an exact same situation a few days earlier?

We've been here before!

A green rectangular sign with rounded corners and a white border is mounted on a silver metal truss structure. The sign contains the text "We've been here before!" in white, bold, sans-serif font. The structure consists of two vertical posts and a horizontal crossbar with diagonal bracing.

In fact, at this point, they have seen
Jesus heal the **demon possessed**
paralyzed **the blind** **every kind**
of disease and illness (Matt 4:23-
24, 8:16), **heal a child in a separate**
town (Matt 8:5-13), **calm a raging**
storm (Matt 8:23-27)

How many times will
Jesus have to step
into our lives and
heal us, help us,
provide for us,
answer our
prayers...
for us to start
trusting him
immediately for all
things??



#7 Everyone ate and was satisfied!

There was a bunch of food left over!

(Matt 14:20 and 15:37)



They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. (20)

They all ate as much as they
wanted. Afterward, the
disciples picked up seven
large baskets of leftover
food. (37)

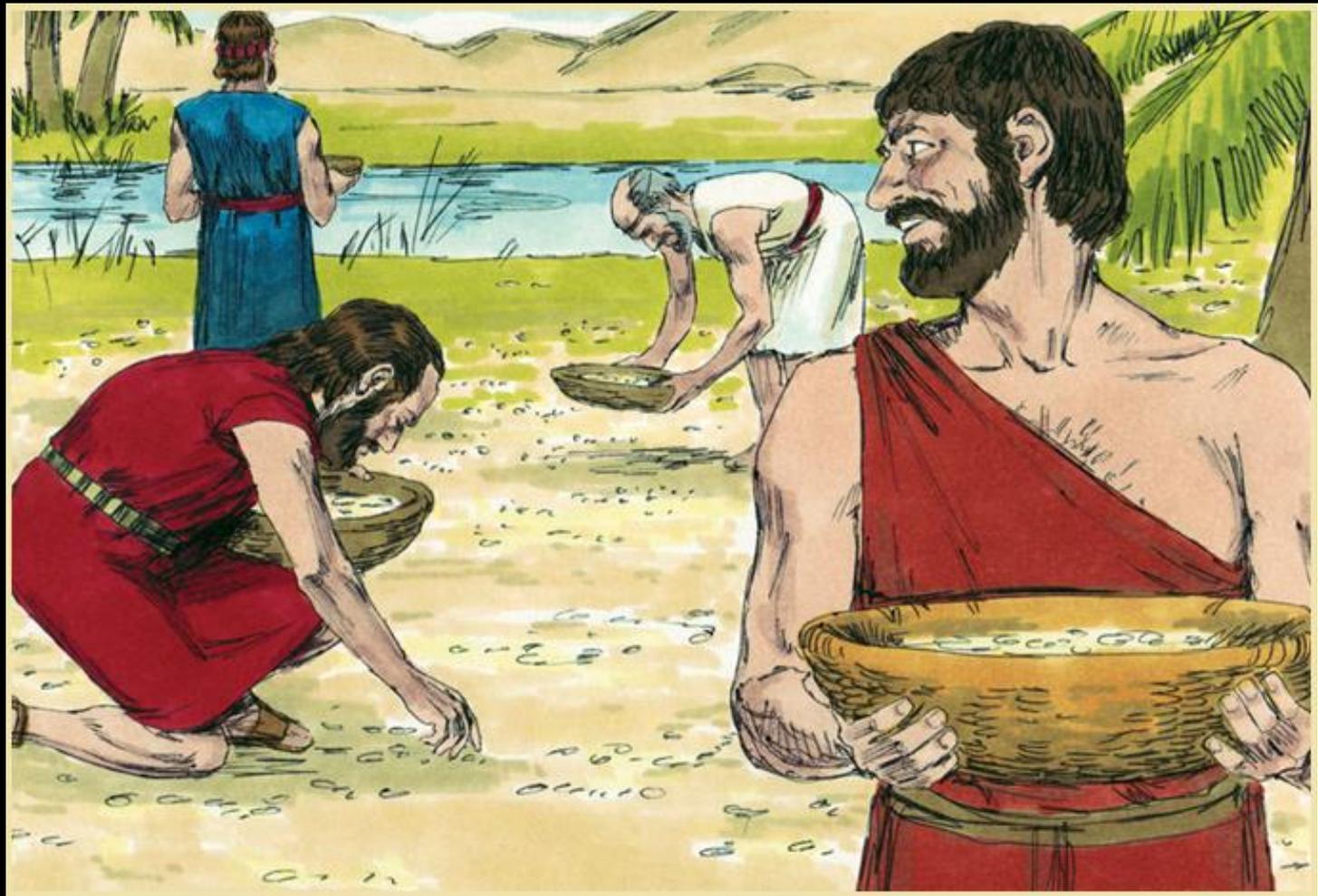
God **WILL** provide
OVER and **BEYOND**
what you need...when
you turn to him to meet
your needs.

He will not withhold anything
from you that you **NEED** for
“satisfaction” and
“nourishment.” And there will
be enough left over for you to
give to others.

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and **see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.**”

Malachi 3:10

By this miracle, Jesus shows that he is 'Yaweh' who rained down Manna from heaven to feed the same nation.



Do you think Moses gave you the bread—the manna—from heaven? No, it was God who gave it. And now I am giving it. And now I am giving inexplicable bread. Out of five loaves, I am multiplying this mystery manna, the way God did. I am not merely another Moses. I am not merely another prophet. I am *like* Moses. But I am as much greater than Moses as God is greater than Moses.

As the Creator of barley
and manna, I don't just
give the bread of life; I am
the bread of life.

-Jesus

Jesus had not come to give them perishable food for their perishable bodies. He had come to give them imperishable food for their imperishable souls.

Next Week: Jesus Raises the Dead

