

## SM026 – Bread by the Sea of Galilee

You're listening to Stories of the Master.

The stories of Jesus have reached into the hearts of millions. They have changed people, families, and nations. Not all have loved the stories Jesus told. Not all have honored the life He lived. Some were angry with Him, the things He did and the things He said. Others were deeply moved and found hope. What will your response be?

Today on Stories of the Master, Bread by the Sea of Galilee. This story is the only miracle story found in all four Gospels and today I will be drawing mostly from Mark 6:30-44 and John 6. I hope you will follow along in your Bible.

My name is Jonathan, and I will be your Storyteller and Teacher.

I'm so glad you're here. Gather your friends. Come close and listen. It's time for the world to hear again the stories of the Master.

And now, Bread by the Sea of Galilee.

### sm026 Bread by the Sea of Galilee

Jesus and his disciples withdrew to the lake. The disciples had just returned from their first journey of preaching and healing and had come back with great stories and enthusiasm for what had happened in their ministry. But their enthusiasm was dampened by another report. Disciples of John the prophet had found them and brought them terrible news – John was dead, beheaded by Herod Antipas.

The news brought great grief to Jesus and his disciples. Some of Jesus' disciples had been with John before they started following Jesus. Jesus and John were cousins. John had baptized Jesus and witnessed the Holy Spirit coming upon him. John had testified that Jesus was God's Messiah. And now he was dead, executed by the son of the man who had tried to kill Jesus when he was a baby.

Jesus gathered the disciples and said, "We need to get away from this place. You need some time to rest from your journey and we all need some time alone." Jesus heart was heavy over the loss of John and Jesus also was thinking of his own future and the coming day when he would stand before Herod Antipas and other officials and he would die too.

And so Jesus and his disciples got into the boat and headed for a place by the Sea of Galilee where there would not be many people. But as the boat approached the land, the disciples were astonished by what they saw. The place that they had chosen was not a quiet place of solitude at all. Multitudes were waiting for them – hundreds, thousands of men, and they all wanted to see Jesus.

So much for the vacation! One wonders if the disciples said, "Jesus, look! Thousands of people. We wanted to get away from everyone so that we could have some time alone and so that we could rest. We haven't even have time to eat a meal."

How did the people know? Word must have gotten out where they were headed and they travelled on foot to await the arrival of Jesus. And when Jesus saw them, he had compassion on them. He saw them as a flock of sheep without a shepherd. And the disciples marveled as Jesus, tired from all he had been doing for many weeks, and still in grief over the death of John, got out of the boat, welcomed the people, walked to a hilly area where he could be seen by all, and began to teach them.

For hours Jesus taught the people about the kingdom of God. And from time to time, some people would bring sick people to him. Jesus would speak to them or touch them and the sick people would be well.

Finally, the day began to come to a close, and a long day it was for it was springtime and the Passover would soon be celebrated throughout the land. As the sun began to set, Jesus and the disciples were still surrounded by the multitudes. The disciples came to Jesus and said, "Master, this place is desolate and the hour is getting late. Why don't you send the multitudes away so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves.

And what Jesus said next stunned the disciples – "You do not need to send them away. You give them something to eat!" The disciples looked at one another. This was impossible. Philip began to count the money that they had to see if they had enough to buy dinner for everyone and Jesus said, "Philip, where can we buy bread that these may eat?"

And Philip, not knowing that Jesus was testing his faith said, "Jesus, we have two hundred coins in our treasury, but even if we spend all of this, it would not be enough to feed these people."

Andrew spoke up and with a laugh said, "Here's a little boy. He has five loaves of bread and two fish. Let's use these!" All the disciples laughed at the absurdity of his suggestion and Andrew said, "What are these among so many people.

Jesus look at Andrew. He looked at Philip. He looked at all the disciples. They had been with him for many months. They had seen him do the impossible and they had even experienced the impossible when they preached and healed, yet this problem of feeding the multitudes seemed greater than anything they had encountered. They could not figure out the solution even though the solution was sitting right in front of them.

Finally Jesus said, "Have the people recline in groups, groups of hundreds and fifties, and bring the little boy's five loaves and two fish to me."

And so Andrew went to the little boy who had the fish and loaves of barley bread and the little boy gladly came to Jesus. Jesus spoke something to him and the little boy smiled and handed over to Jesus his food. Then Andrew and the other disciples went through the crowds of men and said, "Jesus has just told us that we are not to send you away. We don't know what he is going to do but he wants you to gather into groups, and he wants you to recline like you are at a great banquet."

For several minutes the disciples walked through the crowds giving orders and the people began to organize themselves into groups. As Jesus watched his heart was moved as he saw his people reclining

as if they were at a great Passover meal. It was a magnificent sight. It was a beautiful sight. They looked like sheep peacefully grazing in the fields as they lay back on the grass.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. He restores my soul.

These were indeed the sheep of God and how they needed shepherds who had the heart of God. Jesus looked at the twelve as they made their way through the crowds and thought about their future. He thought about how, one day, not too long from that moment, the disciples would again be among the people who would gather by the thousands and they would give them food of a different sort, food that would bring them eternal life. But now he had to give them their bread for the day.

The disciples had now returned. "All is ready Jesus. As you can see they are all reclining just as you ordered."

Jesus said, "Bring me the loaves and fish." They brought Jesus the little boy's food in a basket. Jesus stood in front of the disciples and in the sight of the multitudes he lifted the basket toward heaven and said in a loud voice, "Blessed are you, eternal One our God, Ruler of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth."

Then he lowered the basket down to the earth and the disciples could not believe their eyes for the basket that once had five loaves and two fish was now full of bread and fish. The little boy who provided the meal jumped up and down with joy and Andrew said to Philip. "I think we're going to need some baskets."

For an hour or more, the disciples walked back and forth between Jesus and the crowds. It was a sight to see, the multitudes reclining and eating, like a great flock of sheep grazing on the hillsides, the disciples bringing food to them, and Jesus providing it all. The people ate until they could eat no more as the food flowed freely and abundantly. Finally when it was all over, Jesus ordered the disciples to gather what was not eaten and they came back with twelve baskets full of bread and fish. They started with five loaves and two fish and now there was a basket for each of the disciples!

Then, from the crowds someone began to shout.

"Jesus has performed a miracle like Moses. Jesus has provided food in the wilderness as God provided manna in the wilderness."

Another person stood up and shouted, "Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus is the King."

Then more people stood up and they began to say, "This is our king. This is the one we have been waiting for. He has provided nourishment for his people." Soon, men by the hundreds and the thousands began to stand and shout, "Messiah! Messiah! Messiah! Messiah!" The crowd began to coalesce and move toward Jesus on the hillside. They wanted to crown him as king right then and right there.

Jesus turned to his disciples and said, “Quickly! Gather the food and all our belongings and go to the boat and start sailing to the other side. I will meet you later.”

Jesus then turned to the multitudes who were ready to crown him king, quieted them and said, “The Lord bless you all, and go home.” And he turned and walked deep in the hills of Galilee where no one could follow or find him.

## **Interlude**

Hello everyone. This is Jonathan Williams, the creator and storyteller for Stories of the Master. A very happy and wonderful event where Jesus taught, healed, and fed the multitudes almost turned into a riot when the masses of people wanted to crown Jesus as their king. Didn't Jesus want them to recognize him for who he was? Why did he not want them to crown him as king?

It is because they had the wrong kind of kingship in mind. Their version of the kingdom and his kingship was very different from God's version and that is why Jesus sent them away. We'll learn more about that and see the true colors of these people when we get back to the story.

I hope you have been enjoying these weekly broadcasts and it is always so encouraging to hear from different listeners. Our desire is to take the stories of Jesus all over the world. Wouldn't you agree that the world needs to hear about Jesus, the stories he told, and the life he lived?

Stories of the Master is a ministry of Word of God, Speak where we teach the truth of God's word to a world that desperately needs to hear truth. We show people how to develop a biblical worldview, how to obey God's word, and how to connect their personal story to the Story of God's love for them. If you would like to help us in this ministry, write to us at Stories of the Master – PO Box 90047 in San Antonio TX 78209. That's Stories of the Master – PO Box 90047 in San Antonio TX 78209.

The story of Jesus feeding the 5000 is the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels. I guess it made quite an impression on all the disciples who witnessed hundreds of miracles. Let's get back to the story and see what happened the next day.

## **Part 2**

The next day was the Sabbath and many of the people who had been fed by Jesus went into the synagogue of Capernaum. And there was Jesus with the disciples.

They came up to Jesus and with a friendly voice said, “Rabbi, when did You get here?” But Jesus was not fooled by their tone of voice. He had seen them the night before and had known that they were the ones who had tried to rally the crowd to crown Jesus as king, not because they loved him, but because they loved their bellies.

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for the food which perishes, but

for the food which endures to eternal life. The Son of Man will give this food to you. On Him the Father, God, has set His seal that he is the true one.”

<sup>28</sup>They said to Him, “What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?” <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe **in Him** whom He has sent.”

Jesus knew their hearts. Jesus knew that they just wanted him to do more miracles so that they could have their stomachs filled but Jesus came to fill more than stomachs. He came to fill people with the heart of God. He came to fill people with a vision of God’s love for the whole world. He came to fill people with the attitude of being a servant because it wasn’t just these people who needed physical and spiritual nourishment. It was a whole world that needed the life giving bread of Jesus. Jesus did not want to be their personal miracle-worker. Jesus wanted them to join him in bringing life to the world.

<sup>30</sup>So they said to Him, “ What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform? <sup>31</sup>Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘ HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.’”

What? They wanted a sign? Had not Jesus just given them one of the greatest signs of all? Had not Jesus had them recline as in a great banquet? Had not Jesus provided the banquet of the Messiah by providing bread and fish? Had not Jesus done this during the Passover season where his people were remembering their deliverance from Egypt, their wandering in the wilderness, and the manna from heaven? What more could Jesus show these people to convince them to believe in Him and to follow His ways of mercy, service, and love? He would tell them one more time and

<sup>32</sup>Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world.”

<sup>34</sup>Then they said to Him, “Lord, always give us this bread.”

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, “ I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. <sup>36</sup>But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup>All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. <sup>38</sup>For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup>This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup>For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

The men in the synagogue were offended by what Jesus said. They started grumbling among themselves because He said, “I am the bread that came down out of heaven.

Then, they showed their true heart and expressed what they really thought. “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, ‘I have come down out of heaven’?”

But Jesus knew what they were saying as talked with one another and he said to them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. <sup>44</sup> No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>45</sup> It is written in the prophets, ‘AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me. <sup>46</sup> Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This (that I am talking about and that you need) is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”

<sup>52</sup> Then the Jews *began* to argue with one another, saying, “How can this man give us *His* flesh to eat?” And so Jesus responded to this and said: ~~<sup>52</sup> So Jesus said to them,~~ “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. <sup>54</sup> He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>55</sup> For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup> As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever.”

### **Words to the Disciples**

<sup>59</sup> These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup> Therefore many of the people who had been following him and considered themselves as His disciples, when they heard *this* said, “This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?”

<sup>61</sup> But Jesus, conscious that they grumbled at this, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> *What* will you do if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? What will you do when I take my place at the right hand of God?” <sup>63</sup> It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. <sup>64</sup> But there are some of you who do not believe.”

For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. <sup>65</sup> And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.”

<sup>66</sup> As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?” <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to

whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”

Peter thought back on the events of the previous day when he watched Jesus turn five loaves and two fish into enough food to feed thousands. And Peter thought about what happened after that. Jesus had told the twelve to get into the boat and sail to Capernaum while he went deeper into the hills of Galilee to pray. He had told them he would meet them later. They had obeyed but as they were on their way to Capernaum, one of those sudden storms came upon them and the wind began to blow and the waves became choppy. The disciples remembered this happening before and how Jesus had calmed the storm but Jesus wasn't with them this time. Or was he? As the disciples struggled with the boat during this storm, one of them looked out on the sea and said, “Look! There is someone out on the sea walking! It must be a ghost! And these grown men, these rugged fishermen who prided themselves on their hard work, began to cry out with fear.

But it was no ghost on the sea. It was Jesus who was calmly walking in the midst of the storm. He heard them screaming for fear in the boat and he said, “Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid.”

The disciples looked at each other. It was the voice of Jesus. Peter shouted, “Lord, if it is you. Command me to come to you on the water!”

And Jesus said, “Come!”

And while the other disciples looked on with disbelief, Peter showed that he was growing in his faith for he stepped out of the boat, very carefully, first one foot, then the other, while he held onto the edge of the boat and Peter's heart leaped with joy as he felt like he was walking on firm ground.

“Look at me! Look at me! I'm walking on water! Andrew, John, James, look at me! Jesus I'm walking on water! And Peter began to walk toward Jesus on the Sea of Galilee as Jesus looked on with a smile on his face. But just then, a huge gust of wind blew and a giant wave came rushing toward Peter. Peter took his eyes off Jesus and down he went into the sea, swallowing a huge mouthful of water, and fear filling his heart as he began to drown.

But at the next moment he felt the hand of Jesus grab his hand, pull him up, and he was on top of the water again, sputtering, coughing, and spitting up the water as Jesus pounded on his back laughing and saying to him, “O you of little faith. Why did you doubt.” The disciples were in the boat, some cheering, some laughing, some making jokes about Peter. But it didn't matter. They weren't on the water. He was. And he and Jesus made their way back to the boat and they all looked at Jesus and said, “You are certainly the king, royal Son of God.”

Peter's mind came back to the synagogue of Capernaum and he thought, “Let others laugh. Let others make jokes. Let others leave and not follow Jesus anymore just because he claimed to be the bread of life. But Peter would continue to follow him. He had seen Jesus feed the multitudes with a little boy's

lunch. He had seen him walk on water and had walked on water with him. There was no other place he wanted to go. He wanted to stay right by Jesus' side for he did have the words of eternal life. He was the holy one of God.

## Ending

I hope you enjoyed today's story as much as I enjoyed presenting it to you. I must confess to you as I prepared this story there were times when I laughed over some of the funny scenes and times when I cried as I thought of Christ and my own life and my need to stay close by his side.

But what will you do? Will you follow Jesus? Or will you walk away? Jesus is the bread of life. He did feed 5000 men with bread and fish from a little boy's lunch. But it wasn't just physical food that Jesus wanted to give. It was spiritual food. And when Jesus talked about people eating his flesh and drinking his blood he was not talking about his physical body and blood for he said "the words that I speak to you are spiritual words." Jesus gave his body and blood on the cross that we might have eternal life.

If you have not called upon the Lord today, I pray that you will. I pray that you will confess your sins to him and ask him to be your Lord and Savior. Then he will be the bread of life for you and will be with you in the storms of life.

Write to us and tell us of your prayer and tell us what Jesus is doing in your life. Write to us at Stories of the Master – PO Box 90047 in SA TX 78209 in the U.S. That's Stories of the Master – PO Box 90047 in SA TX 78209.

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Please check out our website – [storiesofthemaster.com](http://storiesofthemaster.com) and you can listen to today's story again, download it or receive a CD to share with a friend. You will also find books and studies that will help you grow in your discovery of Jesus and your relationship with him. And when you go to the website, don't forget to Recommend us on the FB icon.

My name is Jonathan Williams and I hope you have been blessed today and I look forward to you joining us next week for another Story of the Master. Until then, may the Master himself richly bless you.