

## Fed by the King – Mark 6: 30-44

### Overview

With the exception of the resurrection, this miracle is the only one recorded in each of the four gospels, it is also the most witnessed having been seen by approximately 25,000 people when women and children are added to the 5,000 men. Mark's gospel account was being widely circulated within 40 years of this miracle occurring therefore we can assume that many of the 25,000 were still alive. In light of this it is notable to reflect on the lack of any historical documentation debunking this and the other miracles attributed to Jesus in the gospels, when a quick visit to any village around the sea of Galilee would have provided ample opportunity for those who opposed the church to discredit these accounts if it were all fictitious nonsense. The reason is that this miracle happened as with all the others!

### 1) He sees sheep without a shepherd – Verses 30-34

Jesus had compassion for those in this vast crowd, like lost sheep, they were living their lives without the security, provision and protection of a shepherd. Living with a Good Shepherd is a wonderful privilege followers of Christ are entitled to.

*Read out Psalm 23 and discuss what knowing God as Shepherd means from the perspective of this famous passage of scripture.*

### 2) He sees a banquet within a lunchbox – Verses 35-38

John 6:9 *"There is a boy here who has give barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many*

The disciples were tasked by Jesus to feed a football stadium's worth of people! What was offered appeared laughably inadequate for the task ahead. When we consider the huge mission God has called us to - meeting the spiritual hunger of this city – we can easily become despondent and feel like what we have is insufficient for such a task. However, there is infinite power in Christ! Would we be willing, like this boy, to give him all we have and thus the potential for Him to work a great miracle through us?

By His grace we expect to see a mighty work in this city and beyond as we faithfully share the words of life with those who live and work here.

*The cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God – 1 Corinthians 1:18*

### 3) He sees His people satisfied – Verses 39-44

The loaves and the fish just kept coming – how many sardines do you need for 25,000 people? He created from nothing the best food they had ever eaten, fish that had never swam, untainted, unspoilt, directly from heaven – there was even enough for the disciples to each leave with an extra meal! Jesus knows how to satisfy our greatest desires and longings.

*Finish by reading John 6:22-29 as Jesus addresses this crowd the next morning. Discuss what it means to labour for food that doesn't perish.*

### Extra Questions

How have you known the 'shepherding' of God in your life?

Have you experienced what the psalmist does in psalm 23?

How does this miracle encourage us in our mission as a church? Your personal mission?