FEEDING THE MULTITUDES

Learn the code



TWO groups of people recorded in the gospels were fed by Jesus. The significance of both of these two groups is discussed by many Christians because it is a code enriched story. Learn the code and you will understand your past that gives clarity to the present and hope of a better future.

The feeding of the 5,000

Matthew 14

Mark 6

Luke 9

John 6

The feeding of the 4,000

Matthew 15 Mark 8

FEEDING THE 5,000

The story of the miraculous feeding of the house of Judah, the multitude of 5,000, by Jesus was **the only miracle recorded in all FOUR gospels**. This is an indicator of the full awareness of everyone that the Jews were taught the word of God by the Word of God and the importance of it, while the feeding of the multitude of 4,000 was recorded in only TWO books, the books of Matthew and Mark. This is an indicator that these 4,000 were taught the word of God by Jesus, but the awareness of who these people are and that they were taught by Jesus is not wide spread. We can make this deduction because the Bible was written by God who used 44 servants to scribe His coded message. So, what can we learn from God's hidden mysteries, learn His code.

Prior to the story of the feeding of the 5,000, Matthew recorded "Only in his home town in his own house is the prophet without honor" (Matthew 13:57). It was prophesied that Jesus would not be honored among his people.

Jesus began teaching the house of Judah after the beheading of John the Baptist.

JESUS SOUGHT REST

After the news of the death of John the Baptist, "Jesus said, 'Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.' He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat" (Mark 6:31).

Jesus wanted rest from the coming and going of so many people. It may be that he sought a solitary place; a place where there is one word of truth not many differing theological views. It resembles Daniel 12:4, "But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

THE PLACE

Jesus and the disciples went to **Bethsaida**, a Jewish town surrounded by large areas of uncultivated grass lands used for grazing. This is symbolic of the affluence of the word of God in the hands of the Jewish people. Yet, the land remained uncultivated used only for grazing represents the choice of the Jewish people who witnessed many miracles by Jesus but still would not believe. Like the uncultivated land of Bethsaida, they held the word of God in their hands, but they were not spiritually productive.

"Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes" (Luke 10:13).

THE PEOPLE RAN AHEAD OF JESUS AND THE DISCIPLES.

The crowds saw Jesus and his disciples leaving and recognized them, so **they ran on foot to follow** because they had witnessed the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. They got ahead of Jesus and the disciples.

The Jews had anticipated the arrival of their Messiah. They recognized Jesus as a prophet. They desired his rulership over their nation—but immediately. By racing ahead of him, it indicated that they were not following him but attempting to lead him in their direction.

The disciples too, hoped that Jesus would be their king at that time, because they asked, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6)

God has a plan, trust His plan. That was not the time for Jesus to rule over them as their king.

THE JEWISH PASSOVER WAS NEAR.

Jesus and the disciples were on the boat and when they landed, they went up on **the hillside**. It was at the time when the **Jewish Passover was near**.

The feeding of this multitude of the Jews directs our attention to the Passover, when the death angel passed over the Israelite homes who had the blood of the lamb on their door posts.

The Passover is not specific to the Jews for the whole house of Israel kept the Passover, one of God's Holy Days in ancient times. It is referred to as **Jewish** here, because Jesus is addressing the Jews.

There on the day the 5,000 are being fed, **their Passover**, **Jesus**, **the lamb** stands before them in the flesh. His sacrifice is near, but the question is, will they recognize him as their Savior?

JESUS SAT ON THE HILLSIDE.

By sitting on the hillside, a raised area indicates that Jesus has authority.

JESUS HAS COMPASSION ON THEM; THEY WERE LIKE SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD.

Jesus saw the people and had compassion on them because **the people were spiritually hungry**. He began teaching them about the Kingdom of God and healed the sick. The healing of the sick is more than physical healing; it also refers to spiritual healing.

The Jewish religious leaders were starving the people of truth and righteousness. The Pharisees and Sadducees hated Jesus for disclosing the fallacy of the traditions of their elders. They were leaders who revelled in self-glory; they did not want to be dethroned, so they planned and plotted to kill him.

THEY WERE IN A REMOTE PLACE.

The location where Jesus taught the Jews was remote; it imaged a place away from the false teachers. They sat on green grass.

THE PEOPLE WERE TOLD TO SIT ON THE GREEN GRASS.

The green grass was symbolic of a place where the Word of God was rich and plentiful, after all, the Jews were the keepers of the Oracles of God.

EVENING APPROACHED AND IT WAS GETTING LATE.

At evening, the disciples told Jesus to send the people away, so that they can buy food for themselves. The disciples did not understand that it was planned that Jesus, himself face-to-face would teach the Jews first and that a long period of teaching would take place—now 2,000 years before he would return. This teaching began with Jesus, then continued by the disciples who were later anointed as Apostles, followed by the taking of the gospel to all the world by the Christians until Christ returns, then the task of teaching the whole world will be completed by both houses in the Millennium.

THE PEOPLE WERE ORGANIZED INTO GROUPS OF 50s AND 100s.

Jesus directed the disciples to have the people sit in groups of 50s and 100s.

The identity of these people is revealed in the method of how they were organized—in groups. As the Law of God is organized into ten main commandments, it is then broken and organized in groupings of sub-laws. These people kept the law of God and were grouped to reflect their acknowledgement and respect for the Torah. Also note, they were not a scattered people like their brothers.

HOW MUCH MONEY WOULD IT TAKE TO FEED THE MULTITUDE? Eight months wages! Jesus said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip replied, "8 months wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Jesus replied, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." Andrew said, "Here is a boy with 5 small loaves of barley and 2 small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

Spiritual food, the word of God is priceless. No money can buy God's truth; it is a free gift to those who repent. And—for those who are not in the first resurrection and remain faithful, they will be resurrected on the eighth day, that is, after 7,000 years and then, they will be able to afford all of the word of God; they will be filled to overflowing with the word of God.

THE BREAD AND FISH

From within them a **boy** had 5 barley loaves and 2 small fish. A young lad from within them could be reflective of Jesus himself as the boy—the young man about his father's business had the food to give to the multitude.

Jesus then gave thanks to God and broke the bread and gave the food to the disciples who gave it to the people.

The words "TOOK", "GAVE THANKS", and "BRAKE" is written in the past tense.

Jesus is the one who prays for the blessing on the meal. The breaking of the bread was an image of opening up the word of truth to understanding. The food is then given and the task completed.

THE MIRACLE OF MULTIPLICATION

Five barley loaves and **2 small fish** fed the multitude of 5,000 men besides women and children.

"Elijah had multiplied flour and oil to save a widow and her son from starvation.

Elisha did a bit better than his master, multiplying 20 barley loaves so as to feed 100, with some even left over.

Jesus multiplied 5 barley loaves and feeds 5,000, leaving 12 baskets left over. He is even greater still. Moses predicted that God would raise up a prophet like himself, "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him" (Deuteronomy 18:18).

Starting with five barley loaves, Jesus transforms the Mosaic Law into something much bigger, greater, and more nourishing." https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/hidden-meaning-of-the-loaves-fishes/

The five barley loaves:

Barley is the first grain to be harvested in the Spring. The five barley loaves image the five books of the Old Testament—the Books of Moses, which is the earliest source of spiritual sustenance.

The two fishes:

"The Greek word translated "fish" in the account of the feeding of the 5,000 is "opsarion." (Strong's #g3795) It simply refers to that which is cooked and eaten with bread, and we infer from the context that it is fish." http://theopenscroll.com/beyond_veil/feed5k.htm

The two SMALL fishes is highly likely referring to the two houses of Israel: Judah and Israel because they were SMALL, spiritually immature. The source of spiritual learning for the Jewish people is through their own teachers in their house and in the future, their brothers in the 10-tribes when they come to accept Jesus as their Messiah.

THEY ATE AND WERE SATISFIED.

They listened to the teachings of Jesus and understood him. Jesus' teachings filled them, the emptiness of not knowing was gone.

THE REMAINS WERE GATHERED BY THE DISCIPLES INTO 12 BASKETS.

The twelve disciples would become the carriers and distributors of spiritual food for the Jewish house; they would become the key teachers after Jesus died.

NOTHING WAS WASTED.

The food which represents the word of God was not lost; nothing was lost. It was preserved in the Old and New Testament. Jesus made sure that everything we need to know that is critical to our salvation was recorded for our edification in both the Old and New Testament.

THE JEWISH FOLLOWERS WERE FED WHEN IT BECAME VERY LATE.

The Jewish followers were with Jesus one day, but they were not fed until it became very late. This shows that the Jews were living close to Jesus—close to God's word, they did not have far to travel. They were with him in one day, but they were fed late in the evening.

The house of Judah will not be fed until they accept Christ as their Savior. For many of them, it will occur during the last few years of this evil age, during the Great Tribulation. It is prophesied that they will repent, accept grace, and grieve bitterly for the One they pierced (Zechariah 12:10).

THE MIRACULOUS SIGN

"Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, **not because you understood the miraculous signs'**" (John 6:26).

The people despite the many, many miracles and wonders they witnessed, they would not believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus pleaded with the Jews to believe, if not that he is the Son of God, believe having witnessed the many, many miracles that he did before them.

"But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father" (John 10:38).

MAKE HIM KING

"When the people saw the sign that Jesus had performed, they began to say, "Truly this is the Prophet who is to come into the world. When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself" (John 6:14-15).

The Jews wanted Jesus to rule NOW. They did not understand God's plan for ALL of mankind. Their desperate desire to be free from Roman rule kept them from understanding the whole plan. The first arrival of Christ was to redeem BOTH houses of Israel: Judah and Israel and ALL of mankind. He first had to die to pay the price for our sins. He could not be made their king yet. Only God Almighty can crown the King, but first Jesus must qualify.

JESUS WITHDREW AND PRAYED IN PRIVATE.

Through prayer we are strengthened. When Jesus had fasted for forty days and Satan tempted him, it was the third temptation that he felt the most. The devil took Jesus to the highest mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you, if you will bow down and worship me" (Matthew 4:9). With all of Jesus' heart, he wanted to rescue mankind from the strangle-hold of the devil.

Jesus replied, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the LORD your God, and serve him only'" (Matthew 4:10).

Jesus' prayer on that day when he withdrew and prayed in private, could have been, "If there is another way, an immediate way to rescue my people, my Father please tell me, if not, not my will but your will be done."

The house of Judah will come to know how much Jesus loved them then and now when he returns to rescue them trapped against the Mount of Olives in the upcoming Great Tribulation. In great strength, Christ will touch down and split that mountain so that they have an opening where they run to safety (Zechariah 14:4). They will marvel that he remembered them, despite their rejection and in great humility, they will ask for forgiveness and grieve bitterly for the one they pierced (Zechariah 12:10).



Pinterest.com

FEEDING THE 4,000

Remember, prior to Matthew recording the story of the feeding of the 5,000, he recorded that a prophet does not receive honor in his own family, town, or people. This was the introduction to Jesus feeding his own people and them rejecting him. Prior to the story of the feeding of the 4,000 people, Mark records Jesus defining that which is 'clean' and that which is 'unclean'. **Cleanliness is all about what lies within the heart.** "For from within out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean'" (Mark 7:21-23).

Prior to the story of the feeding of the 4,000 people, Matthew records the story of Jesus healing a possessed Canaanite girl because her faithful mother was willing to accept the crumbs the fell, as Jesus was feeding the lost sheep of Israel, the 10-tribes (Matthew 15:24). Jesus said that he was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel, the 10-tribes. He was sent to revive them from spiritual decay. The girl's mother showed such great faith that Jesus healed her that very hour. The healing of the possessed girl indicates that Jesus was willing to spiritual heal Gentiles outside of the 10-tribes when they display faith.

Both prior stories provide an introduction to Jesus going to the 10-tribed Gentiles, showing the Jews that Gentiles are not unclean. **Cleanliness is all about having a heart of flesh, not a heart of stone** and that he will heal all Gentiles, that is, both the 10-tribed Gentiles and Gentiles from the nations when they display faith.

Jesus loves both houses of Israel. "O house of Israel... For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness" (Ezekiel 36:22, 24-29).

JESUS WENT ALONG THE SEA OF GALILEE CLOSE TO THE BORDERS OF THE DECAPOLIS REGION.

Jesus was in the Gentile region. He was going to teach the Gentiles.

HILL COUNTRY

Again, Jesus went up into the hills. Again, Jesus was in a position of authority.

During those days another large crowd gathered. "During those days" refers to the days when the Jews were taught that the Gentiles are not unclean.

THE CROWDS BROUGHT THE LAME, BLIND, CRIPPLED, DUMB TO JESUS' FEET AND JESUS HEALED THEM. THE PEOPLE WERE AMAZED AND PRAISED THE GOD OF ISRAEL.

These Gentiles immediately without question, recognized the miracles were done through Jesus BY THE ALMIGHTY GOD that is why they praised the God of Israel. They had at one time known this God—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They were amazed that Jesus was willing to heal them spiritually—that they, a divorced people cut off and without hope of eternal life could return to God and that there was a redemption plan for them. They were no longer a people without hope as their ancestors believed in Ezekiel 37:

"Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off'" (Ezekiel 37:11).

21st century Christians have long lost this type of gratitude.

JESUS HAS COMPASSION ON THE PEOPLE.

With the crowd of 5,000, Jesus had compassion on the people the moment he saw them. With the crowd of 4,000, Jesus had compassion after he healed the sick and after they reacted with amazement and praised the God of Israel. This was the repentance Jesus needed to witness before he had compassion. These people were from the 10-tribes who had a long history of rebellion against the God of Israel. Jesus accepted their repentance and was ready to feed them the spiritual food from God.

THEY WERE WITH JESUS FOR 3 DAYS BEFORE THEY WERE FED.

These people had traveled from far away and likely came prepared with resources, but at the end of 3 days nothing was left. From a spiritual perspective, it can be said that these people were far from God both physically and spiritually. They wanted grace because they knew their ancestors were rebellious and disgraceful towards both Jesus and the God of Israel. Their humble heart and willing spirit sustained them until Jesus could accept their repentance and feed them. They had to wait symbolically three days representing the 3 days and 3 nights Jesus lay in the grave to end the marriage covenant, which would come to an end with the death of Jesus and the opportunity to marry again came when Jesus was resurrected. Let's review the scriptures that tell this story

• God married Israel: "They broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them, declares the Lord" (Jeremiah 31:32).

"Turn, O backsliding children, says the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion" (Jeremiah 3:14).

• House of Israel divorced: "I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet, I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery" (Jeremiah 3:8).

"This is what the LORD says: 'Where is your mother's certificate of divorce with which I sent her away? Or to which of my creditors did I sell you? Because of your sins you were sold; because of your transgressions your mother was sent away'" (Isaiah 50:1).

- The law that prevented remarriage to a divorced wife: "Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the Lord: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the Lord thy God gives thee for an inheritance" (Deuteronomy 24:4).
- House of Israel saved: "I became its servant by the commission God gave me to fully
 proclaim to you the word of God, the mystery that was hidden for ages and
 generations but is now revealed to His saints, to whom God has chosen to make known
 among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope
 of glory" (Colossians 1:26).

"This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!" (Ephesians 3:2-21).

The number three refers to the completion of a divine event. The waiting of three days supports the notion of a completion of a divine event—the death and resurrection of Christ, these people will be saved.

PREACH TO THE 10-TRIBES

- Christ was sent to redeem the lost sheep of Israel: "He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel'" (Matthew 15:24).
- Christ sent His 12 disciples to the lost sheep of Israel: "These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Do not go onto the road of the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near'" (Matthew 10:6).

JUDAH STRENGTHENED, JOSEPH SAVED

House of Judah strengthened, house of Joseph SAVED: "I will strengthen Judah and

SAVE THE TRIBES OF JOSEPH. I will restore them because I have compassion on them. They will be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the LORD their God and I will answer them" (Zechariah 10:6).

"Don't be ignorant of this mystery... ALL of Israel will be saved" (Romans 11:25-26). "They were broken off because of their unbelief... but God is able to graft them in AGAIN" (Romans 11:20-23).

- "I will build you up again, and you, **Virgin Israel**, will be rebuilt. Again you will take up your timbrels and go out to dance with the joyful" (Jeremiah 31:4).
- I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called 'Not my loved one.' I will say to those called 'Not my people,' 'You are my people'; and they will say, 'You are my God.'" (Hosea 2:23).

THEY WERE FED IN A DESOLATE PLACE AND THEY SAT ON THE GROUND.

This desolate place is symbolic of a spiritually dead place filled with paganism. They were "cut off" for hundreds of years and lived as Gentiles adopting many of the pagan beliefs and customs.

THEY HAD TRAVELED A LONG DISTANCE.

Having been at one time close, these people were now "far away". They came prepared filled with a willing spirit to learn, but their trip home would cause them to eventually fall away from the truth if a structure for sustaining truth could not be established. Hence, the establishment of the church.

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us" (Ephesians 2:13-14).

NOTICE BOTH HOUSES NEED HEALING. "Creating praise on their lips. Peace, peace, **to those far** and **near**," says the LORD. "And **I will heal them**" (Isaiah 57:19).

While the 10-tribes have been out of the land of the forefathers, those living there decided to claim all of the land for themselves. God has something to say about that.

"Son of man, the people still left in Jerusalem are talking about you and your relatives and all the people of Israel who are in exile. They are saying, 'Those people are far away from the LORD, so now he has given their land to us as a possession!' Therefore, say, 'Thus says the Lord God: Though I removed them far off among the nations, and though I scattered them among the countries, yet I have been a sanctuary to them for a while in the countries where they have gone.' Therefore, say, 'Thus says the Lord God: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.' And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit [the Holy Spirit] I will put

within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God" (Ezekiel 11:15-20).

THESE PEOPLE WERE TOLD TO SIT.

These people were told to sit. They were not organized into groups of 50 and 100. In contrast with the 5,000, these people were identified as a scattered people before Jesus and unorganized, as all who appear when they without the Law of God.

7 LOAVES AND A FEW FISH

The loaves of bread and fish came from what the disciples had brought. Now, the disciples were beginning to grow spiritually and they provided the basis of the food that Jesus multiplied to feed the people.

Jesus taught these people, face-to-face and the disciples collected the left-overs, which the people took with them. The left-overs took the form of letters and visits. These Christians cherished the written word and bound them into one book, the Bible.

The 10-tribed Gentiles continued the task of going out and preaching the gospel to the whole world after the Apostles died.

"And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone" (Mark 16:15).

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).

The 7 loaves:

5 + 2 = 7. The loaves are the complete Bible both the Old and New Testament which is the written Bread of Life: the 5 books of Moses, the Prophets and the letters that form the New Testament.

The few fish:

The few fish is a non specific amount and more than two. It is likely to be referring to both the house of Judah and Israel, and converted Gentiles from nations around the world who are the sources of spiritual food for this house.

JESUS "GAVE" THE BREAD WHICH IS THE IMPERFECT TENSE.

The imperfect tense indicates that **Jesus kept on giving to the disciples.** Over the past 2,000 years, the Word of God has been a continual learning period as Believers grow in grace and knowledge.

7 VERY LARGE BASKETS OF LEFTOVERS

The very large baskets are needed for the long period of time that the Believers need to be fed spiritual truths, which has brought teaching to the seven churches of Revelation since the death of Christ.

THE NUMBER 5,000 AND 4,000

The number 5,000 is 5 times 1,000.

- 5 is symbolic of teaching which is the same as spiritual feeding. There are 5 books of Moses represented in the 5 loaves of bread, the source of spiritual food.
- 1,000 is Millennial, a period of 1,000 years.

The number 4,000 is 4 times 1,000.

• 4 is symbolic of universal. There are 4 corners—4 directions of the earth: north, south, east, and west, and the 4 winds (Matthew 24:31; Revelation 7:1; Revelation 20:8). In Acts 10:11, a sheet with four corners symbolizes The gospel will to go out to all of the Gentiles and nobody is unclean.

"He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. Then a voice spoke to him: "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!" (Acts 10:11-12) 1,000 is Millennial, a period of 1,000 years.

Together (5,000 = Judah + 4,000 = 10 - tribe Gentiles), the teaching of God's word will go out to all the earth by BOTH the house of Judah and the house of Israel. We will witness the completion of this great event during the 1,000 years of the Millennium.

The Bible has a primary focus on the house of Israel (God's inheritance) and the great fracture of their kingdom triggered the intense hostility that grew between them. It is a complex story filled with drama, emotional highs and painful lows. Despite their choices over 4,000 years, they will finally come together as a united-kingdom, ready to obey God and remain faithful forever. The story of the feeding of the 5,000 and 4,000 men besides women and children describes Christ teaching **BOTH** houses the good news of the Kingdom of God. **All of Israel will be saved** —all 12 tribes. Then the best work begins—the teaching of the rest of the world in full measure about God Almighty, mankind's Creator and King.

God is the author of the Bible. He is the great story-teller. Learn his coded language and you will understand your past, bring clarity to the present, and hope for a better future.

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich with much gratitude from all of the resources referenced in this article.