

Synoptic “first” crowd meal story

(Mark and Matthew each have two such stories; Luke only this one; unique elements in **bold**)

MARK 6.34-44

As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, **because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.** When it **grew late**, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send **them** away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy **something for themselves to eat.**" But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "**Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?**" **And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see."** When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he ordered them to get **all the people** to sit down **in groups on the green** grass. **So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties.** Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the **people; and he divided the two fish among them all.** And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets **full of** broken pieces **and of the fish.** Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

LUKE 9.12-17

The **day was drawing to a close**, and the twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside, **to lodge and get provisions;** for **we are here in** a deserted place." But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "**We have no more than** five loaves and two fish--**unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.**" For there were about five thousand men. **And he said to his disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each." They did so and made them all sit down.** And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the **crowd.** And all ate and were filled. What was left over **was gathered** up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

MATTHEW 14.14-21

When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them **and cured their sick.** When **it was evening**, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send **the crowds** away so that they may go into the villages and buy **food for themselves.**" Jesus said to them, "**They need not go away;** you give them something to eat." They replied, "**We have nothing here but** five loaves and two fish." **And he said, "Bring them here to me."** Then he ordered **the crowds** to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, **and the disciples gave them to the crowds.** And all ate and were filled; and they took up **what was left over** of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, **besides women and children.**