

The Lesson in the Loaves (Mark 6:30-56)

How do you usually respond to the trials and hardships of life? Do you “count it all joy” according to James 1:2? You should, and so should I. But most of the time we don’t! Instead of rejoicing, we often grumble, complain and feel sorry for ourselves! When trials come, we ought to look up--not down!

An important key to facing life’s difficulties and challenges is to remember that **God is able to turn our trials into triumphs**. This took place in both the feeding of the five thousand (Mk 6:32-44) and Jesus walking on water (Mk 6:45-52). Both these great miracles took place in very challenging circumstances – the one on land, the other at sea. As we consider these two miracles, let’s realize that **the problems we face are actually blessings in disguise!** Every trial that comes your way is an opportunity to look up, pray up, and see the power of God at work in your life.

POINTS TO PONDER:

A. THE CHALLENGE OF A HUNGRY MULTITUDE (V32-44)

- **God Is Concerned About Your Education** (1Timothy 4:13). He wants you to know and understand the truth. That’s why He taught the directionless multitude many things (v34).
- **“Send them away.”** The disciples wanted to dismiss the crowd. But Jesus had a better plan!
- Jesus took the five loaves and two fish and blessed and broke them. This reminds us of the Last Supper with the disciples. In this incredible miracle He fed five thousand hungry men.
- The people ate and were filled (v42). **Twelve baskets** remained – one for each disciple!

B. THE CHALLENGE OF A STORM AT SEA (V45-52)

- From the opening verse in this miracle it is clear that Jesus knowingly led His disciples into the storm (v45). God allows us to face storms in order to strengthen our faith in Him.
- Jesus “departed to the mountain to pray” (v46). All the time His eyes were on His disciples.
- At the **fourth watch** (3-6 AM) He came to them on the water. Immediately the storm ceased.

CHALLENGE TO CHANGE:

- *How do you respond to trials?* God wants you to “count it all joy” when trials and hardships come your way. (Read over James 1:2-3 again).
- *Never doubt that Christ cares for you.* Even in difficult times His eyes are always upon you.
- *Do you seek God’s blessing in all that you do?* When Jesus took the loaves and the fish in His hands, He blessed and broke them. Without this blessing and dividing the meal would have been hopelessly inadequate! Surely this should motivate you and I to seek God’s guidance (v37-40) and His blessing (v41) in all that we do. *When we are truly **Christ-dependant** we will see much good accomplished in our lives.*