

and met him at the other side. Parallel passages, Matt. 14: 13-21; Luke 9: 10-17; John 6: 1-14. This is the only miracle related by *all* the evangelists.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Needy Multitude. vs. 30-34. II. The Scant Supply. vs. 35-38. III. The Abundant Meal. vs. 39-44.

I. THE NEEDY MULTITUDE. 30. **Told him all things**—It must have been delightful to sit and tell him all their trials and successes, and hear his wise and loving counsel and approval. **Rest awhile**—Christ is full of tender consideration for the comfort of his people. 32. **A desert place**—an uninhabited district near Bethsaida Julias (Luke 9: 10.) See Map above. 33. **Ran afoot**—Went round the northern end of the lake. The distance by land was only five or six miles. It was Passover time and the roads were full of people. 34. **When he came out**—i. e. of the ship. **Was moved with compassion**—He gave up all idea of taking a rest, and going up a hillside he sat down and taught them (John 6: 3). He healed all the sick (Luke 9: 11), but their greatest need was the Bread of Life.

II. THE SCANT SUPPLY. 36. **Send them away**—So far as the disciples could see this was the kindest thing they could do. 37. **Give ye them to eat**—John tells us that Jesus asked Philip, "Whence shall we buy bread that these may eat?" and that he did this to prove him (John 6: 6), to bring out the fact that the disciples could not provide for them, and so make the miracle clear beyond doubt. **Two hundred pennyworth**—about \$30,

but really as much as \$200 would be now, since one penny was a man's day's wages. This would be still far from enough (John 6: 7). 38. **Loaves**—made of barley-meal (John 6: 9). **Fishes**—dried and used as a relish, much as we use herrings, etc. These were in the possession of a lad in the company.

III. THE ABUNDANT MEAL. 39. **By companies**—reclining as if around tables. It was "the month of flowers." 40. **Ranks**—The word used also means "a flower bed." The gay colors of their clothing suggested the idea to the apostles. Each group, or "company," consisted of two rows of 100, and a shorter one across the end of 50. There were 20 groups of 250. The women and children ate by themselves and were not counted (Matt. 14: 21). 41. **Blessed**—gave thanks. Jesus never omitted to "ask a blessing" at meals. 42. This was an exercise of creative power by Him, by whom, at the first, all things were made. 43. **Baskets**—made of wicker work. Every Jew carried one when travelling, so that he would not have to pollute himself with gentle food. Jesus bade them gather up "the fragments, that nothing be lost." God gives abundance, but we offend the Giver when we waste his gifts.

LESSONS.

1. Rest and meditation are as necessary as active service for Christ. 2. We cannot seek Christ too earnestly. 3. Always ask a blessing before meals. 4. It is a sin to waste anything—especially food. 5. Christ is the Bread of Life.

LESSON III — January 20th.

Christ, the Bread of Life. JOHN 6: 25-35.

(Commit to memory verses 33-35.)

GOLDEN TEXT.

"He gave them bread from heaven to eat." John 6: 31.

LESSON HYMNS.

CHILDREN'S HYMNAL, NOS. 41, 44, 80, 170.

PROVE THAT

We need more than loaves. Matt. 4:4.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Quest. 4. *What is God?* God is a spirit, infinite, eternal and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Christ, the Bread of Life; John 6: 25-35. *Tuesday.* Misunderstood; John 6: 36-46. *Wednesday.* Bread from Heaven; John 6: 47-55. *Thursday.* Spiritual Teaching; John 6: 56-63. *Friday.* Christ, the Water of Life; John 4: 7-14. *Saturday.* The Manna; Exodus 16: 11-18. *Sabbath.* Confessing and Enduring; 2 Tim. 1: 1-12. (The I. B. R. A. Readings.)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The impression created by the miracle narrated in last lesson was very deep. The people said to one another "This is a truth that prophet that should come into the world." He had repeated the miracle of the manna in an even more wonderful form, and therefore they thought the resemblance to Moses complete. Jesus perceived that they would