

Matt. 14 : 13-28. Compare Mark 6 : 30-56 ; Luke 9 : 10-17—Memory Verses, 20, 21.

Golden Text—Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life.—John 6 : 35.



13 When Je'sus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart : and when the people had heard *thereof*, they followed him on foot out of the cities.

14 And Je'sus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

15 And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past ; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.

16 But Je'sus said unto them, They need not depart ; give ye them to eat.

17 And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.

18 He said, Bring them hither to me.

19 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

20 And they did all eat, and were filled : and they took up of the fragments that re-

mained twelve baskets full. 21 And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

22 And straightway Je'sus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitude away.

23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray ; and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When the news reached Jesus of the cruel death of His faithful friend and forerunner, John the Baptist, He immediately left Galilee and crossing the lake came to a quiet country place near Bethsaida, where he might rest and be alone with His disciples. But when the people saw where He was going, they followed Him on foot around the end of the shore, so that when Jesus landed He again found thousands of people, with many also who were sick, gathered to meet Him. Tired and sad though He was, Jesus would not disappoint them, and He not only cured all who needed healing, but preached to them His heavenly Father and His kingdom.

It was now late in the afternoon, and the people had been with Jesus all day without having had anything to eat. There were no shops near, where they could buy food, and as they had not brought any with them,

everybody, and particularly the little children, had grown very hungry and tired. Then the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "It is time these people were sent home. Let them go at once and buy food for themselves in the villages round about." But Jesus said, "Give ye them to eat."

While the disciples were wondering what Jesus could mean, a boy came running to them with five small thin bread-cakes or biscuits, and two small fishes. "It is impossible," said the disciples, "to do anything with so little. If they were to be divided among all these people, there would not be even a crumb for each one." "Bring them to Me," said Jesus, and turning to the people He told them to sit down in good order on the grass, where the disciples arranged them in groups of hundreds and fifties, leaving a path between each group. When they were all seated, it was counted