

disciples, for their sakes. He needed rest for His own.

So you have the little voyage across the lake : trace it from Capernaum to Bethsaida Julius. Explain these various names.

But the crowds were eager to see and hear more of this wonderful Man. They follow. Ask the reason for it, v. 2.

Jesus is a little ahead, as the crowds have come on foot. He goes to the hill top with His disciples. He is to have His quiet time with them ? No. The crowds that have followed, appear. Who are these new multitudes which join them ? Verse 4 answers. Between them, they form a "great company."

Most would have gone further still, and let the crowds do for themselves. That's the selfish way. It's common. It's natural. It's easy. Why trouble ourselves about tired people, or worried people, or wicked people ? But such was not Jesus' way. See Matt. 14 : 14 and Mark 6 : 34 for His feeling toward them, and what He did for them, tired and in need of rest as He was. Does He ever cease caring for the weak and weary ?

The bread problem was an urgent one. The disciples had a simple solution of it, Mark 6 : 35, 36 ; simple, but selfish ; simple, but forgetful of what their wonderful Master could and might do. How often do even good Christians fail to take God into account !

What about Philip's solution of it, v. 7 ? He is the sort of man who would never send out a missionary till every penny was in hand to pay him. What about Andrew's proposition ? Ah, here is a practical man. It's very little, he says, but it's something (v. 9) ; and perhaps it will be like 1 Kings 17 : 14. Use the little there is, and trust God to make it go far : that is good policy in work for Christ. We have but to do our utmost, and God will take care of the rest.

In what an orderly fashion it was done (vs. 10, 11) ; how the food multiplied ; how all were filled ; how carefully the fragments were cared for, and how great a supply they made ; and how clearly this work of wonder and mercy showed what and of what manner Jesus was :—these are some of the points that remain.

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

Lesson Points

The wise worker understands the value of rest. v. 1.

Self-interest or self-sacrifice—which ideal of life is ours ? v. 2.

Prayer is the power that drives the wheels of service. v. 3.

In the call of human need we may hear the voice of God. v. 5.

No one is poor who can count on the resources of heaven to supply his need. v. 7.

Seek to be helpful, and you are sure to be happy. vs. 8, 9.

Plans carefully thought out are essential to effective work. v. 10.

We can best show our gratitude for the gifts of God by using them aright. v. 11.

There is abundant provision in the Gospel for the whole world. v. 13.

Miracles were like church bells summoning people to listen to the teaching of Jesus. v. 14.

When Count Zinzendorf was a boy at school, he founded among his school fellows a little guild which he called the "Order of the Grain of Mustard Seed," and thereafter that seedling grew into the great tree of the Moravian Brotherhood, whose boughs were a blessing to the world.—Farrar.

Prove from Scripture

That Jesus is compassionate.

Lesson Questions

[From the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY]

Juniors—Where were the five thousand fed ? At what time of the year ?

1, 2 Of what sad event had Jesus just learned ? Why did He cross the sea ? Who followed Him ? Why ?

3-6 What feast was near ? How did this increase the crowds ? Our Lord's question to Philip ? Why to him ? The purpose of the question ?

7-9 How much money would be needed ? Which disciple found "a lad" ? What food had he ?

10, 11 In what way were the crowds