

2. *A bread Messiah.* Our friends are sometimes our worst enemies. The masses were ready to give their allegiance to Jesus, as the Messiah of prophecy. But the terms on which they were ready to espouse his cause were those which would rob him of his highest value to them. Jesus had already decided against such a Messiahship. (Read Matt. 4: 1-4.) The friend of the struggling drunkard who insists on treating him once more, is his worst foe. The friend of the artist who kills the artist's dream by luxury; the friend of the artisan who palsies the artisan's hand by ease, are friends only in name and intention, not in fact.

Even with the best of teaching, men often tend to look on religion in crude, materialistic ways. Some, to-day, regard it only as a sort of life insurance policy. Some contribute to its support because the church offers them a social centre.

3. *Religion—Why?* Philip, in a different way, was ignorant of the purpose of religion. Philip was loyal to Jesus, but, in spite of his fellowship with him, never seemed to perceive the significance of Jesus. (Read John 14: 8, 9.) He was a good business man, but he never discovered any real use for his religion. He was like those who find no blessed fellowship, no comfort, no strength in their faith, because it never enters into their mind that God has any practical value for life.

4. *A boy's lunch.* Jesus wrought on the material furnished to him by the disciples. God builds on our "utmost." Some years ago, a Toronto girl, on her deathbed, willed her all,—seventy cents—to missions. After her death, her brother, who was a missionary in India, showed to others, the pitiful little purse, with its scanty contents, and soon the seventy cents grew into thousands of dollars; and, in this way, India was blessed with the Lizzie Wanless Hospital.

### For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

By Rev. A. Wylie Mahon, B.D., Toronto

Remind the class that the story of the lesson miracle is found in all four Gospels. There was something about this incident which made a deep impression upon the minds and hearts of the disciples. Why did Jesus take his disciples across the lake, up

the grassy mountainside that day? (See Mark 6: 31.) Some good people boast that they never take a vacation, since the devil never does. There is little advantage at any time in following such an example. Jesus realized that his disciples needed rest to equip them for larger service. Show that we may do more and better work by giving ourselves breathing-spells. Our lesson is a record of what took place that day.

1. *A Great Multitude*, vs. 1-4. Why did the multitude follow Jesus into the desert? Show that an interest of some kind in what Jesus was doing had taken complete possession of them. It was a time of religious excitement, for Jesus was doing things out of the ordinary. Bring out that there was nothing sensational about Christ's methods of working, but that there was something sensational about the wonderful works which he did. Moody was not sensational in his methods, but crowds flocked to hear him because God made use of him in a marvelous way in saving sinners.

2. *A Perplexing Problem*, vs. 5-9. How could the multitude be fed in that desert place? Note that Christ's compassion for the hungry multitude created the problem. He might have left them to care for themselves. If they were foolish enough to make no provision for their physical wants, they must suffer for it. That was not Christ's way of looking at the matter. His heart was too big to be indifferent to man's physical wants. What suggestions had Philip and Andrew to make in the way of solving the problem? Discuss this problem of providing for the physical wants to-day.

3. *The Solution of the Problem*, vs. 10-14. Question out the particulars of how Christ fed the multitude, and how he feeds the multitudes to-day,—the Belgians and the Poles—how he feeds the whole world by the miracle of growth.

### For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D.

A good start for the lesson will be to bring out what led Jesus to cross the Sea of Galilee with his disciples: he had just heard of the murder of John the Baptist (Matt. 14: 1-12), and they had just returned from the mission