

## SIT DOWN AND EAT!

*Luk 9:13 But He said to them, "You give them something to eat." And they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people."*

*Luk 9:14 For there were about five thousand men. Then He said to His disciples, "**Make them sit down in groups of fifty.**"*

*Luk 9:15 And they did so, and made them all sit down.*

*Luk 9:16 Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude.*

This is one of the most famous miracles of Jesus. It is the feeding of the five thousand with five loaves of bread and two fish. This miracle of Jesus is highly symbolic and teaches us today of how the Lord Jesus intends for us to be fed by him. First of all Jesus expects his disciples to feed his people. He places the responsibility for feeding the people of God upon His disciples. He said to them, "You give them something to eat" The disciples immediately realized their inadequacy in doing this great task. They knew of themselves they could not feed the people. Every minister must first realize this. Once he understands this fact, he can now look to the Lord and receive from Him and then feed the people of God. First Jesus told the disciples to make the people sit down. Oh how wise is the Lord Jesus. He knew that if he did not make the people sit down they would be tempted to stampede and try to get the food in fear of being left out, so He made them all sit down. Next He had them sit down in groups of fifty. This also shows the wisdom of our Lord. He knew that groups would be easy to keep track of and that those attending the each group could make sure all were fed. This was much easier than just have all the people just sitting haphazardly all over the ground. This would also produce pathways for the servers. Now the feeding of the 5000 is symbolic. The number 50 speaks of Pentecost and the birth of the church. In this account there were many groups of fifty made to sit on the ground. This represents the many local churches that Christ would establish so His people could receive His nourishment. Notice however, that Jesus did not Himself feed the entire crowd. Jesus broke the bread and the fish and distributed them to his disciples who were assigned to each group. They took what Jesus gave to them and

fed the group of fifty. This speaks of Jesus establishing pastors and giving to them food to feed the people of God in the local church. Pastors are to spend time with Jesus and receive bread and fish from Him and then give it out to the people. Many pastors are not receiving fresh bread from the Lord. They are finding their own food to give to the people and the people of God are becoming malnourished! Jesus broke five loaves of bread. Five speaks of grace in the Bible. The ministers of God are to receive the message of grace in the Word of God and minister grace to the people of God. What nourishes believers today is not the law, but the message of grace. Grace is the unmerited favor and resources of God given upon the basis of the righteousness of Jesus Christ and His finished work. The disciples also received fish to give to the people of God. This speaks of the pastors ministering the importance of evangelism to the people of God. Fish in the Bible is symbolic of unbelievers. We are called to be fishers of men. We are to receive the message of grace and then become witnesses of God's grace and power to win the lost. Before the people could be fed, Jesus told the disciples to make the people sit down. Jesus knew human nature. Some did not want to sit down! They wanted to know why they had to sit down. Jesus said to **make** them sit down. He knew that if they were up wandering around from group to group it was not safe and they would not be fed well and it would create confusion. This is the same with the local church. Jesus intends for us to sit down in a local church and not to wander around from group to group [church to church]. There are believers today that do not see a reason to sit down in one church. They think it is better to float from church to church and see if they like it better in a different place. What happens is that they end up not being well fed because they are not systematically taught the Word of God in a consistent manner. They end up bringing confusion and trouble to churches and to themselves. Until believers sit down in a church they cannot be properly fed by the Lord and His messenger the pastor.

How about you? Are you sitting down in a local church or are you up wandering around? Are you even attending church? If you are not then you are not receiving the proper nourishment from our Lord. He uses his disciples to take His food and feed His children. You must sit down and eat! Find your group of fifty that the Lord wants you in and sit down and eat. Ask the Lord what church He wants you in and then be led by

peace. Find a church that you have peace in and that ministers the grace of God and love of God from Genesis to Revelation and then sit down and eat! Stay in that church until you know God is saying to leave. This will build stability in your life and you will be well fed by the Lord. So, sit down and eat child of God!