

A tale of two feasts (Matt. 14:13-21)

People who'd been around at the time of the Feeding of the Five Thousand were still alive when the stories of Jesus began circulating

This is the only miracle recorded in all four gospels

One way of looking at Matthew's version is to see the dramatic _____ with a meal described in the preceding text.

Herod's birthday party was a gaudy, self-indulgent, and bawdy affair.

The head of John the Baptist was delivered on a platter.

Herod's feast describes all that is _____ and _____ in fallen humanity.

Matthew wants us to see Jesus' _____.

Jesus is weary and emotionally spent, but he has _____ for these needy people.

"You give them something to eat."

The resources the disciples could muster were _____, but in Jesus' hands they are more than enough.

In carrying out Jesus' directions, the disciples discover _____ beyond their wildest dreams.

They also discover an abounding _____ and _____ in Jesus that knows no bounds.

Jesus came to speak into people's lives and to demonstrate kindness, graciousness, peace, comfort, solace, and encouragement.

Jesus's feast on the hillside is a metaphor of the generous salvation and abundant life he's come to offer.