

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Christian Initiatory Teachings

Miracle of Loaves and Fishes (Con.)

In those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples unto him and saith unto them,

I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat;

And if I send them away fasting to their own homes, they will faint by the way; for divers of them came from afar.

And his disciples answered him, From whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness?

And he asked them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, seven.

And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them; and they did set them before the people.

And they had a few small fishes, and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before them.

So they did eat and were filled; and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets.

And they that had eaten were about four thousand.—*Mark 8:1-9.*

To wield the great creative power here described one must be tested and proved entirely selfless, else there would be havoc in the world. This test the Master passed at the time of the Temptation. The occult power by which the loaves and fishes were multiplied is the same as that by which gold is produced from baser substances, a work understood only by the most advanced.

And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

When Jesus then lifted up his eyes and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him, for he himself knew what he would do.

Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes; but what are they among so many?

And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place,

so the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

And Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained.

Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.—*John 6:4-14.*

Although the food produced was used to feed the multitudes, the Master's primary object was to instruct the Disciples in the workings of the Law of Multiplication. John's account of this incident varies slightly from the record given in the synoptic Gospels. In the latter the miracle is performed by Christ Jesus Himself; in John's account the Master endeavored to have the Disciples do the work. He tests both Philip and Peter, but neither is yet capable of using this law. To do so necessitates the *power of faith* and the understanding of the creative mind power, which neither Philip nor Peter possessed as yet, although these two Disciples symbolize these faculties in man.

The symbolism of the loaves and fishes was used to designate the work belonging to the Piscean Dispensation with its inner teachings under Virgo, whose symbol is the Madonna, the glorified one, with the sheaf of wheat or manifested powers over the physical earth.

The numbers 2, 7, and 12 are significant in that they are the principal divisions used in the science of the stars when considered astrologically. Their numerical value is also significant in relation to the different steps or degrees of attainment outlined in the four Gospels.

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