



JESUS FEED 5000 PEOPLE

Do you ever imagine what it was like to be alive in Bible times, to see Jesus face-to-face? I do and I think it might have been something like this:

“Mum, mum, can I go down to the village with Jake? We’re going to see Jesus.”

“I thought you were helping your dad in the workshop.”

“I have. I’ve put all the tools away and swept the floor and dad says I can go.”

“Alright then. But you must be back before dark. Promise me.”

“Yes mum.”

“And don’t you be cheeky to Jesus – he’s a very special man.”

“No mum.”

“And you’d better take something to eat – you’ll be starving by lunchtime.”

“Oh mum, I’m in a hurry.”

“Here, I’ll do it quickly. There’s five loaves here in the bread basket – I’ll make some more when you’ve gone. And two little fish from yesterday, but you’re not taking my pottery bowl – you’ll only break it. Here, I’ll wrap it in this paper.”

At last Joe got out of the house and soon he and Jake were chasing each other down the alleyways until they got to the village square. There were lots of people standing around in small groups but no sign of Jesus or his friends.

“What’s happening?”

“Nothing much. Salome said that her brother saw Jesus and the others early this morning getting into a boat and going across the lake.”

“In that case, all we’ve got to do is walk round the shore until we find his boat and then we’ll see him.”

“Good idea.”

So off they went with Joe, Jake, and the other children running ahead. Every time they came to a village, people stopped to look.

“Where are you all going?”

“Round the lake to find Jesus of Nazareth.”

“Good idea; I’ll come too.”

And so it went on until there was a huge crowd walking along, chattering excitedly.

Finally, they spotted Jesus and his friends sitting on the shore but when Jesus saw them coming, he walked up the hill ahead of them and they all spread out around him.

All day, Jesus stayed there talking to people, healing some who were ill and telling stories. Joe and Jake listened some of the time and then wandered off to play for a bit. One of Jesus’ friends talked to them.

“Hello you two. Are you having a good time? What are your names? My name’s Andrew.”

So they introduced themselves and Andrew said, “What’ve you got in your bundle, Joe?”

“Some bread and fish. Mum made me bring it but I’ve been too busy to eat it yet.”

Just then Jesus finished another story and called out to Andrew to come over, so the boys tagged along. Jesus’ friends were looking really worried.

“They’ll have to go and buy food. We can’t feed this many people. There must be at least 5000. it would cost half a year’s wages to feed this lot!”

“Well,” said Jesus, “what have we got?”

Joe pulled on Andrew’s sleeve and whispered “Jesus can have my food if he likes. I don’t mind.”

So Andrew called out “There’s a boy here with 5 loaves and 2 fishes but that’s not going to go very far!”

“Let’s see.” said Jesus, “Tell the people to sit down in groups of about 50.”

So the disciples got all the people to sit down and Jesus opened up Joe’s picnic. He held up one of the loaves and broke it in half and said, “Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, who makes food come out of the earth.”

And then he started to break up the bread and the fish and hand it to the disciples who handed it around to the people.

It was amazing. The more Jesus handed out, the more there seemed to be still in his hands. The disciples went back and forth, collecting food, handing it out and coming back for more.

Eventually people were saying “Stop, I’m full. I couldn’t eat another crumb.”

So the disciples gathered up what was left into the baskets they’d been using – twelve of them – full of leftovers.

“Wow!” said Joe. “Amazing!” said Jake and so did everyone else.

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Some of that I just imagined but I do know that there was a disciple called Andrew, there was a boy with 5 loaves and 2 fishes and Jesus did feed a crowd of more than 5000 people.

We may not have very much but if we bring it to Jesus, he can do amazing things.

Liz Platt