

Five Loaves & Two Fish

Named, "Feeding of Five Thousand" or "Multiplication of Loaves & Fishes"

- found in all four gospels Matt 14:13-21, Mk 6:34-44, Lk 9:12-17, Jn 6:1-15

Unique that Matt and Mark have two miraculous feedings

Matthew 14:13-21 of 5,000 people & Matthew 15:32-39 of 4,000 people

Closely paralleled with of two in Mark 6:32-44 of 4,000 & 8:1-10 of 5,000

Why two so similar but different miracles? One in Jewish territory and one Gentile

Jesus the Math Teacher? Mark 8:19-21 "Do you not remember, when I broke the

five loaves for the five thousand, how many wicker baskets full of

fragments you picked up?" They answered him, "**Twelve.**" And when I

broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many full baskets of

fragments did you pick up?" They answered, "**Seven.**" He said to them, "Do

you still not understand?"

Tradition holds that the twelve refers to 12 tribes of Israel, and the seven

accounts for the seven nations in Promised Land when Israel settled in it.

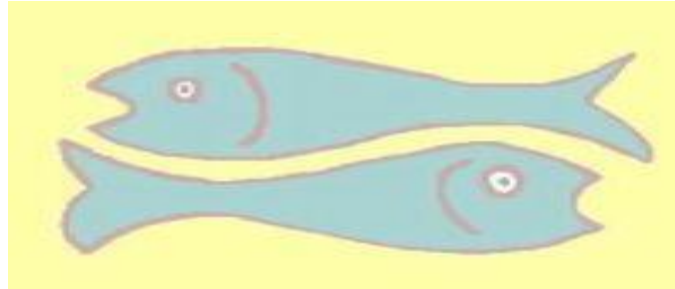
Why five and why two? Adds up to seven, as in seventh day-divine rest.

- Completion of creation-Sabbath- Matthew 14:19 'he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass' & Matt 14:20 'They all ate and were satisfied')
Genesis 2:2 "On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing; he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken."
Isaiah 25:6 'On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples, a feast of rich food....'
Psalms 23:2 'In green pastures he makes me lie down'
Psalms 23:5 'You set a table before me'
- Five Loaves: Torah-Pentateuch First Five Books of Bible
Deuteronomy 8:3 "it is not by bread alone that people live, but by all that comes forth from the mouth of the LORD" Jesus quoted this in the Desert Temptation story of Matt 4:3-4 "*If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.*" He said in reply, "*It is written: "No by bread....(Deut 8:3).*" Jesus could have made bread, but not for himself.
- Two Fish: Fish- Why Two? Torah directs life between God & His People collectively; or with Christ we speak about being one, Christ Head-Church Body

Relationship between God & Humanity, & between Person and Person—is directed by the Torah-teaching. For example, think of the two great commands, Love of God & Love of Neighbor (also 2x2-Disciples, animals)

Symbol of Fish for Christ Himself and for any of His Disciples

Ichthys (Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior- ΙΧΘΥΣ (ichthys), or also ΙΧΘΥC



Iota	I	is the first letter of Iēsous (Ἰησοῦς), Greek for "Jesus"
Chi	CH	is the first letter of Christos (Χριστός), Greek for "anointed"
Theta	TH	is the first letter of Theou (Θεοῦ), Greek for "God's"
Upsilon	Y	is the first letter of (h)ygios[8] (Υἱός), Greek for "Son"
Sigma	S	is the first letter of sōtēr (Σωτήρ), Greek for "Savior".

Matthew 4:19 "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Take, Bless, Break and Give: Four Eucharistic Verbs

- Matt 14:19 - "Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds." (*same four verbs also found in Last Supper Scenes of Mark 14:22-24, Matt 26:26-28, Luke 22:17, 19-20 & 1 Cor 11:23-26*)

Luke expands use of verbs beyond Multiplication Miracle and Last Supper, to include them at the Resurrection Appearance to the Emmaus Disciples
In Luke 24:30 "*When he was at table with them, he took bread, blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to them.*" (*Made known in the Breaking Bread*)

This Special Eucharistic Formula becomes the heart of the Prayer of consecration, known as the Words of Institution (from Eucharistic Prayer II)

"At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is My Body which will be given up for you. In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying: Take this all of you and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me. "