

November 22, 2026
“God's Supernatural Provision”
Luke 9:10–17

God's Supernatural Provision

Luke 9:10–17
10 On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. 11 When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing. 12 Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, "Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place." 13 He said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." 14 For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." 15 And they did so, and had them all sit down. 16 And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. 17 And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

There is an ongoing effort to try to make the Bible shake hands with modernity (mainline churches)

How I approach this miracle story and all biblical miracle stories:

1. Starting with **Genesis 1:1** "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth"
2. It's in all four gospels (it must have been very important)
3. Its drawings are in the catacombs in Rome (it must have been very important)

Let's examine each verse

Luke 9:10

"On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida."

- The 12 apostles return from their mission trip (two weeks ago)
- They tell Jesus all they experienced
- Then Jesus withdraws with them (by boat) to a town called Bethsaida
- For a time of rest and refreshment

Luke 9:11

"When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing."

- When the crowds learned where Jesus was going, they followed him
- Probably sprinting along the shore to see where he would land
- Jesus welcomed them and for many hours He:
    - Preached the kingdom of God
    - Cured those in need of healing

Luke 9:12

"Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, 'Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place.'"

- The day began to wear away (morning went into the afternoon)
- The 12 came to Jesus and told him he needed to send the crowd away
- Into the surrounding villages and countryside
- To find a place for lodging and food
- For their present place was desolate

Luke 9:13

"He said to them, 'You give them something to eat.' They said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.'"

- Jesus responds, "You give them something to eat"
- In John's gospel and this story: Jesus says this to Philip
- "Where is there a marketplace from where you can buy food?"
- And he did so to test their and Philip's FAITH (**John 6:5–6**)
- Why Philip? He's a walking calculator
- He's also from Bethsaida, the nearest city
- He would know the local stores and where food and lodging could be found
- And calculate the cost to feed all these people
- But this miracle would be different from all others Jesus did: it's SO big!
- Its purpose was to remove all doubt and unbelief from their hearts
- For them to have a purified faith

Luke 9:14

"For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, 'Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.'"

- Philip concluded the cost to be 200 denarii — about 6 months' working wages
- **A seemingly impossible situation: it's SO big!**
- Jesus then tells the disciples to divide everyone into groups of 50
- This was how they could conclude that there were 5,000 (total somewhere around 10–15k)!
- The disciples found five barley loaves (poor man's bread) and two fish

(like sardines)
- They came from a young boy in attendance (other gospel accounts of this story)
- Who was he? Was he alone?
- Did his mom pack his lunch for the day? Did he just want to hear Jesus?
- He is the hidden hero of the story
- He selflessly gave everything to Jesus

Luke 9:15

"And they did so, and had them all sit down."

- The disciples followed Jesus's command
- Everyone sat down in groups of 50

Luke 9:16

"And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd."

- **Jesus's next step is prayer**
- Prayer always seems to be his next step no matter what the situation
- He took the five loaves and two fish the young boy had given
- He looked up to heaven where God is enthroned
- From whom all our blessings flow
- For all we have is a gift from God
- The importance of prayers of faith in miracles
- Why do we say blessings before meals today? It comes from this text
- Dads — a way to be spiritual leaders in your home: you initiate the blessing
- And make it a meaningful prayer from your heart (faith more caught than taught)
- Jesus broke the bread
- He gave it to the disciples (is this when it began to multiply?)
- Then to the crowd — and it began to multiply. Miraculously. Supernaturally
- Modernity's answer to this miracle?

Luke 9:17

"And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces."

- They all ate
- And all were satisfied — even those who wanted seconds and thirds
- With 12 baskets left over
- Probably large baskets from the boat to place fish when caught
- Each one of the apostles had a basketful left over for themselves
- **This miracle is primarily for them!**
- In John's gospel, Jesus told them, *"I am the bread of life"*

Application

- God is no respecter of persons
- What he did for this crowd, he will do for you
- What he did for the disciples, he will do for you

Ephesians 3:20

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,"

- Remember **John 6:6** of this story: Jesus did this to test their faith
- To give to see Jesus's provision in abundance to us

I've had several "testing times" in my ministry experience (gulp gifts):

1. From Woodlawn to Park Road: Gulp — $5 million — Gulp!
2. Two years after moving in: 30 meals
3. Growth needing a sanctuary — Gulp! Millions needed
4. Pastor Cameron's inner city church's need first
5. Sanctuary building: needing $500k by Friday noon!
6. Paying off the debt: another $500k came from an “out of the blue” gift
7. For years there followed enormous prosperity and growth

Then MOHC

1. Six locations in seven years
2. Over 200 potential properties explored
3. Finally, one property emerged: the Ballantyne YMCA

4. Cost: $42.5 million — Gulp!
5. But over seven years, MOHC had saved over $20 million
6. We thought about a professional fundraiser for the rest: cost!
7. We decided to raise money God's way in the Bible
8. **God's leader asks God's people for God's money**
9. Back to the future: smaller groups of around 50
10. We've been doing this since August 1st

It's now halftime!

Half the meals are finished

The second half is January–March (please attend)

What do we need from you (my halftime pep talk)?

1. If you have been to a meal, please fill out a pledge card by end of December, '26
2. It's needed to see where we are at halftime
3. It's also needed to plan if/how much we will need to borrow from the bank
4. **Parenthesis: we are doing well; we are encouraged**
5. But we need to finish the race!
6. If you know what you are going to give and don't need to attend a meal, please do the pledge card now before end of year, 2026 — each December Sunday the box available
7. Every gift is important — **even five loaves and two fish** — gifts in kind too
8. At one of the meals, someone calculated: $200/month for five years is $11k
9. If 900 of our giving units did this, we have what we need! Most of our gifts are smaller offerings — with one-time gifts, over five years?
10. Financial gifts before closing (June, 2027) very helpful
11. **We are hoping to announce our figure on Easter, March 28, 2027**

Gifts given to the Lord's work multiply

Luke 6:38

"give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you

use it will be measured back to you."

2 Corinthians 9:6–8

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."

- The feeding of 12k plus people with five loaves and two fish
- God providing our future home
- I didn't think I'd have to do this again
- But God did!
- Partly, to test my/our faith
- It's a story you'll be able to tell your children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren
- A story where you become the young boy in this story to show people in years to come:

God's Supernatural Provision

Always preceded by prayer