

חֲמִשָּׁת פַּכּוֹת לֶחֶם וּשְׁנַי דָּגִים

Five Loaves and Two Fish

One day Yeshua received the sad news that His good friend, Yochanan HaMatbil, had been put to death by the Roman ruler Herod. After hearing this news, He needed to be alone for a while as He grieved the death of His friend, so he said to His talmidim, "Let's go away from the crowds and find a quiet place where we can rest." So they got in a boat and went across the Kinneret to a grassy place away from the villages. But as they were going, the crowds saw them, and went on foot around the lake so that when Yeshua and His talmidim arrived on shore, the crowds had already gathered. They were so anxious to hear Yeshua's teaching, that they were willing to following Him wherever He went.



By the time Yeshua and His talmidim had come to the shore across the lake, it was getting late in the afternoon and was approaching the time for dinner. The talmidim discussed the matter among themselves, and decided the best thing to do was to tell the people to go home and come back another day to hear Yeshua teach. After all, they had crossed the lake in order to get away from the crowds, and to have some time alone as they grieved the death of their fellow talmid, Yochanan Ha Matbil. So they came to the Master and said to Him, "This place is desolate and the hour is already late; so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Yeshua answered His talmidim, "They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!" The talmidim were puzzled by Yeshua's instructions. How would it be possible to feed such a large crowd? Surely they hadn't brought enough food for that! What is more, if they were to go into the villages and buy food, it would cost a fortune! The talmidim said to the Master, "How can we possibly feed this crowd? If we were to buy that much food, it would cost us what a person could earn in eight months!" Yeshua asked them if any of the people had food they could share. The talmidim had noticed that a young boy had five loaves of barley bread and two fish, but that seemed like nothing compared to what would be needed to feed the entire crowd of people. But Yeshua said, "Tell the people to sit down on the grassy slope." Now there were over 5000 people who had gathered! The young boy willingly gave to the Master the loaves and fish he had brought. Then Yeshua took them, and having blessed HaShem by saying the HaMotzi berachah, He began to tear the loaves and fish into pieces, telling the talmidim to pass the food to the crowd.

Well, He kept tearing the loaves and fish until everyone had some to eat! Yeshua had performed a miracle, for as the Creator, He made of the five loaves and two fish enough for all the people. What is more, when the people had finished eating, they gathered up what was left over, and there were twelve baskets full of bread!

When the people realized what had happened, they began to say, "This man, Yeshua, must be the Prophet that Moses told us about, who would come into the world and explain the Torah to us" (Deut 18:18).

Yeshua feed the people because He wanted them to know that He had come to help them, and lead them to the truth. Not only could He feed them with food for their bodies, but He could also give them spiritual food for their souls.