



NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

Supplemental Texts

Ex. 16:4; 18:21; Due. 18:15-19; 2 Kings 4:42-44;
Pss. 78:23-25; Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 1:14-15;
6:30-44; Luke 9:1-2; 22:19; 24:30; John 6:1-15,
32-35; Acts 27:35

Study Summary

After the the disciples return from their missionary work, Jesus takes them aside for some much needed rest and instruction, but the crowds find them, bringing an abundance of need. Jesus meets the needs of the crowd both physically and spiritually, even despite the misgivings and grumblings of the disciples. In this passage we see Jesus meeting the needs of a weary people, but also fulfilling the promises of God, pointing forward to His identity is the true and better Moses.

Historical & Theological Background

Sharing a Meal: "Ancient meal customs placed a higher premium on the symbolic value of table fellowship than is common in the modern Western world. To the ancients, sharing a meal was imbued with ritual meaning and often signified the most solemn and intimate of social relationships." "The Gospel writers demonstrate that Jesus used shared meals strategically to challenge the Jewish system of social and religious exclusivity. In contrast to the practice of the Pharisees, Jesus' open table fellowship bridged a variety of demographics." "By reclining at the table with various disreputable characters, Jesus was accepting them as equals in the newly defined kingdom of God". "The language used to describe" Jesus' actions in this passage "indicates the usual action of the host at a meal, taking the food, giving thanks for it, and distributing it." [Citations taken from: Howard Marshall, *The Gospel of Luke: A Commentary on the Greek Text*; *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*; *The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary*]

The Miracle: This is the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels other than the resurrection. Why do you think that is? What is the significance of this miracle? Read through the other Gospel accounts and see how this miracle plays a similar but unique role in each Gospel (Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; John 6:1-15)

[Leon Morris, *Luke: An Introduction and Commentary*]

DISCUSSION PRIMER

Take some time this week to read Luke 9:11-17 slowly and prayerfully. Ask yourself these questions: What are my needs? How does God fulfill those? Where might I take a leap of faith in my own life? Come to group ready to discuss.

TEXTUAL INVESTIGATION

LUKE 9:11-17

Big Idea: Jesus Is the Fulfillment of God's Promises

Fallen Condition Focus: Lack of Faith

- What does Jesus do for the crowds (11)? What does this say about the ministry of the disciples? (See Luke 9:1-2)
- What insight does Mark's account of this story give into how Jesus felt about the crowd? (See Mark 6:34)
- What do the disciples want Jesus to do to the crowd (12)? Why?
- How does Jesus respond to the disciples (13)? Why do the disciples still lack faith (13-14)?
- What did Jesus tell the disciples to do? What does Jesus do for the crowd, and what lesson might the disciples learn from this miracle (14-17)?
- When else has God provided for His people in a similar way? What does this say about Jesus' identity and mission? (See 2 Kings 4:42-44 and Ex. 16:4)

Gospel Connection: Read Due. 18:15-19 and John 6:32-35. How does Jesus fulfill the promises of God?

TEXTUAL INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- Have you ever let things get in the way of caring for and ministering to others? How can we foster Jesus' attitude for the crowd in our own lives?
- Why is it so important to depend on the continued work of God as we reach out to those in need? What does it look like to work alongside of Jesus rather than on behalf of Him?
- Where in your life might you lack faith that Jesus can bring a change? What would it look like to take a step of faith?
- How has God provided for your needs in the past? What did you learn from that event that could help you face the unknowns of tomorrow?
- What are some of your own needs today? How is God meeting those needs? How might your community of faith help you meet those needs?

REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read *Luke 9:11-17* and explore together what the passage reveals about:

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| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ? |
| 2) The fallen human condition? | 5) Our obedience to Christ? |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ? | 6) Our relationship to others |

TEXTUAL APPLICATION: "So, what now?"

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

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| • a command to obey? | • a beauty to behold? | • a mission to fulfill? |
| • a promise to claim? | • a truth to believe? | • an example to follow? |
| • a sin to repent of? | • a service to render? | • a person to tell? |