

He Gave Thanks Before the Miracle

Written by Bill Perkins

"Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed
to those who were seated as much as they wanted."

- John 6:11

Fifteen thousand hungry faces.

Five loaves.

Two fish.

One command to feed the crowd.

Philip counts the cost.

Andrew names the lack.

They say what they don't have,
yet fail to ask for Jesus' help.

It never occurs that He might feed
as the Father fed in the wilderness.

They had seen Jesus

Turn water into wine,

heal the sick and lame,

calm a storm,

even raise the dead-

but feeding thousands He could not do.

So they stared in silence at the impossible.

Then another command: "Have them sit."

While they couldn't feed the throng,
they could oversee the crowd.

The impossible exposed their doubt;

The practical exposed their desire.

And Jesus-already knowing-

Took the loaves,

Lifted them high.

And then gave thanks.

Not after the miracle

but before.

Jesus knew all along what He would do.
And so He offered thanks
not just to honor the Father,
but to show the disciples-
and us-
how to give thanks in the waiting,
in the wilderness,
in the not-enough.

You may not know this about Jesus:
He gave thanks before the miracle— while the bread was still not enough.

When I face not-enough,
do I stall between command and trust-
or give thanks like Jesus did?

In the waiting:
I recall God's past provision
and rest in His unchanging character.

In the wilderness:
I shift my focus from what I lack
to Who is with me now,
trusting Him for daily bread.

In the not-enough:
I name the insufficiency honestly,
then give thanks before the miracle,
declaring trust in His faithfulness.

Thanksgiving isn't the result of abundance;
it's an expression of faith.
It ties me into God's unbroken story of provision-
yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Father, thank You for Your faithfulness in the past.
Thank You for manna in the wilderness,
for loaves multiplied on the hillside,
for every provision I've already seen.

And thank You for what is yet to come.
Teach me to give thanks
in the waiting,
in the wilderness,
in the not-enough.

You are the same yesterday,
today,
and forever.

I trust You.

I thank You.

In Jesus' name-Amen.