

Matthew 14:13-21

Who does this remind you of?



The miracle of the “feeding of the five thousand” is the only one found in all four Gospels, and therefore one of the most familiar. But why does Matthew include it? How does Jesus' performing *this* miracle help to build towards Matthew's key moment of revelation about “what sort of man is this?”?

It is probably better to regard the “this” of *when Jesus heard this* (13) as referring not to the murder of John the Baptist (3-12) – which had happened some time ago, and is almost included here in brackets – but to his fame coming to the ears of Herod Antipas (1). It is near Passover, but still a whole year until *The* Passover when Jesus was to die. That time must not be precipitated by confrontation with the political or religious authorities too soon.

➤ **Where's your compassion?** (14)

Consider Jesus' frequent showing or teaching concerning compassion: Matthew 18:27, Mark 1:41, Luke 7:13, 10:33, 15:20.

Notice that *teaching* was an outcome of his compassion (Mark 6:4). Do people realise this nowadays? Does this still count?

With modern news reporting, we regularly hear of situations far beyond any one human being's ability to adequately respond to, in doing, praying, or giving money. How can we not be crushed under the weight of “compassion fatigue”?

➤ **Where's your logic?** (16-17)

The disciples saw only the shortfall of food, and Jesus' “they need not go away” simply does not compute. How can we start to develop the kind of spiritual logic that “thinks outside the box”?

➤ **What's your Saviour like?**

... greater than John the Baptist?

... greater than Moses (John 6:32-33)?