

**Mark 6:14-44**  
*Sacrifice & Provision*

*"By feeding the five thousand, Jesus was teaching us to find our life in him. We could probably infer that from the Gospel of Luke, but in case there is any doubt, the Gospel of John makes it perfectly explicit. There Jesus says 'the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world' (John 6:33). 'I am the bread of life' (John 6:35), he goes on to say; 'I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever' (John 6:51). Jesus is our nourishment and provision, our sustenance and satisfaction." Ryken*

- I. *Mark's account of the beheading of John the Baptist and the feeding of the five thousand revolves around two great feasts. "The first was hosted by Herod Antipas. The second was hosted by Jesus. At the first feast, only the nobles and the elite of Galilee were invited. At the second feast, the people of the land, the commoners, gathered to be fed by the provisions set forth by Jesus. At the first feast, the food was prepared by gourmet chefs. At the second feast it was prepared by the hand of the Messiah. At the first feast, the entertainment was exotic dancing. At the second feast, the first item on the agenda was the exposition of the truth of God by the Son of God. Finally, the climax of the first feast was the heartless execution of a man of God. At the second feast, the dominant theme was the compassion of the Son of God for people who were sheep without a shepherd." Sproul*

**John 6:35** *Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*

**Isa. 25:6** *On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine-- the best of meats and the finest of wines.*

**Matt 8:11** *I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.*

**Rev. 19:9** *Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God.*

- II. Herod Antipas gives us a picture of a man who allowed the pleasures of the world to overrule the conviction of the truth of God's Word in his heart. God gave him ample opportunity to repent and be saved. Instead, he chose his own evil desires over the draw of the Spirit toward righteousness. Because of his compromise, he not only had to deal with the guilt of his sin while he lived, but he is also dealing with the guilt of his sin in hell as he awaits the final judgment before the King he mocked. **All** the conviction in the world, listening to preachers and Bible teachers, knowing what is right but choosing to stay in sin does nothing to the soul unless there is a willingness to repent, turn from it and believe on Jesus for eternal life.

Mark 6:14-29

Luke 23:8-12

Lev. 20:21

Psalm 119:127-128

John 3:19-20

Rom. 2:13-16

**John 3:19-21** *19This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.*

- III. The feeding of the five thousand gives us a picture of the Good Shepherd giving lost sheep the care and concern needed to truly nourish their souls. He gave them his love, grace, mercy, wonderful word, and kindness to show them what a true shepherd is like. He is our Shepherd too. He laid down his life for us. He gives us eternal life. He knows us and we know him. He leads us and we follow him. He speaks to us and we know and listen to his voice. He refreshes our soul and guides us along right paths for his name's sake. Because he is our Shepherd, we will never perish, and no one can snatch us out of his hand.

Mark 6:30-44

John 10:1-18

**Psalm 23:1-3** *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*