

Luke 9:10-17

Introduction: This begins what is known as the collapse of the Galilean ministry. It probably takes place sometime during the spring or summer of 32 AD. Apart from the resurrection of Christ, this is the only miracle with parallel passages in all 4 gospels: Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, and John 6:1-13. This answers the question: Does Jesus have the authority and the ability to provide?

Jesus teaches before the miracle of provision—9:10-11

- 1) The ministry report—¹⁰ *And when the apostles had returned, they fully described for Him all they had done.* (cf. 9:1-6)
- 2) The unsuccessful withdrawal—*And having taken them along, He withdrew privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.*
 - On the north-northeast side of the lake, about 3-3 ½ miles east of Capernaum, across the Jordan River. This was the birthplace of Peter, Philip, and Andrew.
 - a) ¹¹ *But the crowds, when they became aware of this, followed Him;*
- 3) The patient ministry—*and having welcomed them, ...* (rather than growing frustrated) (cf. 4:38-44; 6:17-19; 7:22) (cf. apostles' ministry in 9:6)
 - a) *He was speaking* [impf. act. ind.] *to them concerning the kingdom of God*
 - b) *and was curing* [impf. dep. ind.] *those who had need of healing.*

Jesus organizes for the miracle of provision—9:12-15

- 1) The inability of the 12 apostles—9:12-13a
 - a) ¹² *Now the day was ending* (3-6 p.m.), *so the twelve approached and said to Him, “Dismiss the crowd so they can go away into the surrounding villages and countryside and find lodging and provisions, because we are in a desolate place.”*
 - b) ¹³ *But He said to them, “You^{pl} (emphatic) give them something to eat.”*
 - i) Which they can't do at this point, but they will after Jesus provides for them to do so.
- 2) The insufficiency of the 12 apostles—9:13b-15
 - a) *And they said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people.”* ¹⁴ *For there were about five thousand men* [ἄνδρες]. (cf. Matthew 14:21)
 - i) *Then He said to His disciples, “Make them recline in groups of fifty.”*
 - (1) This would be 100 groups of men, or @ 8 groups per apostle. That works out to 417 men to be served by each apostle.
 - (2) Both Mark and John indicated the disciples estimated it would take 200 denarii to cover the expenses. In our culture it would be something 2/3 of a year's wages).
 - ii) “Not only would going and buying food have been expensive and awkward at this late time of day, it would have taken quite a logistical effort to get the food back out to this isolated location.” (NET Bible)
 - b) ¹⁵ *And they did so, and they made them all recline.*

Jesus miraculously and abundantly provides—9:16-17

- 1) Preparation—9:16a
 - a) ¹⁶ *Then having taken* [aor. act. ptc.] *the five loaves and the two fish,*
 - b) *and having looked up* [aor. act. ptc.] *to heaven,*
- 2) Two main verbs—9:16b
 - a) Godward—*He blessed* [aor. act. ind. εὐλογέω]
 - b) Manward—*and broke them* [aor. act. ind. κατακλάω],
- 3) The miracle itself—9:16c
 - a) *was giving* [impf. act. ind. δίδωμι] *them to the disciples to set before the crowd.*
- 4) The superabundance—9:17
 - a) ¹⁷ *And they all ate*
 - b) *and were satisfied,*
 - c) *and twelve baskets of leftover fragments were picked up.*
 - i) More than enough for everyone
 - ii) Jesus doesn't change the barley bread into something "better"

Take-home truth: What is your response to the truth that Jesus possesses both the authority and ability to provide for the needs of His people?