

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Twelve and Seventy

Twelve Baskets of Fragments

Matt. 14:15 "And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. 16 But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat. 17 And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. 18 He said, Bring them hither to me. 19 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. 20 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. 21 And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children."

This passage is often referred to as the miracle of the loaves. The Lord blessed the five loaves and two fishes, broke them, and then gave to the disciples who gave to the multitude and they all were filled and left of the fragments that remained. This is typical of the preaching of the gospel. The Lord blesses that little that the gospel minister has to bring and uses it to feed the multitude that are gathered to hear the gospel. They, thru the blessings of God, are fed spiritual food to the full.

The Lord told the disciples to gather up the fragments that remained after the people had finished eating so that nothing be lost. Through the preaching of the gospel the people are filled and there remains spiritual food for the coming days that God's people may feast upon. This happens often when the gospel is preached. People are fed by what is preached and then they go home, meditate upon it during the week, and study upon it, so that their souls are continuously fed throughout the week.

They picked up twelve baskets of fragments that remained over and above what the people had eaten. Twelve is a representative number in the scriptures. This teaches us that the gospel is sufficient to feed all of God's people when it is first preached, and with the fragments that remain after the preaching service is over.

