

The Feeding of the 5000

From the point of view of the boy with the loaves

Last Friday, the strangest thing happened. I doubt I will ever be able to explain it, but I am going to try anyway.

I had been fishing on the far side of Tiberias for fish to eat for Passover. (Last year we only had a few mouldy loaves). It was raining steadily, and I wasn't having a lot of success because my only bait was a few dead worms. I did manage to catch a few Tilapias, but they slipped back into the water. By the time I gave up, cold, muddy and frustrated, I only had two small sardines to show for my efforts, and I was too angry to have eaten my lunch of five small barley loaves

As I was preparing to go home, sure I would receive a beating from my father, I heard a man shouting to me. I ran up the hill towards him, slipping on the wet ground. When I reached him, I saw that he was sitting with twelve other men, and that there was a huge crowd behind them. I saw that my father was amongst them and I waved, but he couldn't see me.

The man who had first called to me told me his name was Andrew. He took me towards one of the men, who had a strange, otherworldly look about him. He had a

goatee and was immaculately clean, well, for a peasant.

As he looked at me, I felt a warm glow about my hands and face. He asked me if he could have my fish and the bread. If anyone else had asked me I would have said no and laughed in his face, but he felt...different, as if he was my best friend in the world. As I look back on it, if he had asked me to jump off a cliff I would have obeyed unquestioningly. I told him to help himself. He took the loaves first, gave thanks (what on earth for?) and then gave 6 of his friends a loaf each. They went down into the crowd, and gave everyone as much as they wanted. I couldn't see what was happening, as there were too many people, but they seemed to have been going far too long for the size of the loaves. Then he did the same with the fish.

By this time it was almost getting dark, so he told his followers to go and collect the scraps. Scraps! From two fish and some bread between 5000! This was madness! But when they returned they had twelve full baskets of scraps. When I looked at him, he was smiling warmly and had an ethereal light dancing in his eyes...

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