

The Spiritual Work of the Church

Hunger and Thirst for
Righteousness

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who
hunger and thirst for
righteousness, for they shall
be satisfied.

Jesus Fed Thousands

Mark 8
John 6

Mark 8:1-3

In those days, when again a
great crowd had gathered,
and they had nothing to eat,
he called his disciples to him
and said to them, "I have
compassion on the crowd ...,

Mark 8:1-3

... because they have been
with me now three days and
have nothing to eat. And if I
send them away hungry to
their homes, they will faint on
the way. And some of them
have come from far away."

Mark 8:4

And his disciples answered
him, "How can one feed
these people with bread
here in this desolate place?"

Mark 8:8

And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full.

Mark 8:9

And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away.

John 6:25

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"

John 6:26

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, *not because you saw signs*, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

John 6:27

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you ..."

The Purpose of Miracles

Luke 4:25

“There were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land,

Luke 4:26

and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.

Luke 4:27

And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”

John 9:1

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth.

John 9:2

And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

John 9:3

Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him ...”

Acts 3:2

And a man *lame from birth* was being carried, whom they laid *daily* at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate *to ask alms* of those entering the temple.

Acts 3:3

Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.

Acts 3:4

And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us."

Acts 3:5

And he fixed his attention on them, *expecting to receive something* from them.

Acts 3:6

But Peter said, "I have *no silver and gold*, but what *I do have* I give to you. **In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, rise up and walk!"

Acts 3:8

And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, *and entered the temple with them*, walking and leaping and *praising God*.

Acts 3:9

And all the people saw him walking and praising God,

Acts 3:10

and *recognized* him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Acts 3:12

Peter addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?”

Acts 3:16

And [*the name of Christ*] – by faith in his name – has made this man strong whom you see and know, and *the faith that is through Jesus* has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.”

Acts 4:7

[The rulers] inquired, “By what *power* or by what *name* did you do *this*?”

Acts 4:8

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders,

Acts 4:9

if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed,

Acts 4:10

let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that **by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead – by him this man is standing before you well ...”

Hebrews 2:3

How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,

Hebrews 2:4

while *God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles* and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Acts 14:3

They remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who *bore witness to the word* of his grace, *granting signs and wonders* to be done by their hands.

The Practice of the Church

Acts 2:46

And day by day,

- 1) attending the temple together and
 - 2) breaking bread in their homes,
- they received their food with glad and generous hearts ...

Romans 14:17

The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 11:22

What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? ...

1 Corinthians 11:34

... If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home.

The Church's Spiritual Goal

Ephesians 4:11

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

Ephesians 4:12

to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Ephesians 4:13

until we all attain to the unity of the *faith* and of the *knowledge* of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of *Christ*,

Ephesians 4:14

so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of *doctrine*, by *human cunning*, by craftiness in *deceitful schemes*.

Ephesians 4:15

Rather, *speaking the truth in love*, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ ...