

The Misunderstood Lord of Glory Misunderstood Provision

Luke 9:10-17 (ESV)

On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing. Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, "Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place." But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish – unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." And they did so, and had them all sit down. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

No matter how many times He has shown us, we still seem to constantly misunderstand that Jesus Christ is Jehovah Jireh, the God who provides.

Philippians 4:19-20 (ESV)

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

God is glorified in providing for us.

What are we hunting for?

Bethsaida

Beth = house

Genesis 28:17, 19a (ESV)

And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." ...He called the name of that place Bethel,...

Tsayad = hunters

Genesis 10:8-9 (ESV)

Cush fathered Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be a mighty man. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD. Therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD."

Bethsaida = House of the Hunters

Luke 10:13 (ESV)

Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

Sidon = hunting

God provides for people who pursue Him.

Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV)

You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Proverbs 8:17 (ESV)

I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.

Luke 11:9-13 (ESV)

And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; for if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

How does God provide?

Natural Provision

Provision Through Predictable Patterns

Acts 14:16-17 (ESV)

In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.

Supernatural Provision

Provision Through Miraculous Means

Matthew 17:27 (ESV)

However, not to give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for me and for yourself.

Spiritual Provision

Provision Through Created Contentment

Philippians 4:11-13 (ESV)

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

The purpose of God's provision is that we would believe in Jesus Christ as the ultimate source of eternal satisfaction.

John 6:26-29 (ESV)

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. 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. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”