

## TAKEAWAY:

# FEEDING THE 5000 & WHAT IT MEANS FOR US TODAY

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

On Sunday, Jason led us through one of the most famous miracle Jesus performs – the feeding of the 5000 – and asked what we can learn about contentedness from this story.

### Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

*When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.*

*As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."*

*Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."*

*"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.*

*"Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

**Matthew 14:13-21**

### Questions

1. Where would you place yourself on the scale of contentedness? Fulfilled, bereft or somewhere in between?
2. What are the main reasons for you being there?
3. What are the things that either ease your emptiness or take away your sense of wellbeing?
4. In Philippians 4, St Paul says he knows the secret to being content. How might you apply this in your own context in 2022?
5. In the story of the feeding of the 5,000 Jesus commands the disciples to feed the crowd themselves - how do they overcome their limited resources? How does this episode help us to overcome our own limitations as a Christian community?
6. When Jesus responds to the waiting crowd with compassion he reveals what his inner attitude is like to the needy - how often do we demonstrate the opposite?