

# I Was There!

## *The Feeding of the Crowds*

*Adapted from Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Matthew 15:29-38; and Mark 8:1-9 by Jessica Fisher*

**Summary:** Two friends, Dara and Eliezer, reunite after weeks of excitement. They have each witnessed the teachings and miracles of a man named Jesus and recount their experience to each other.

**Characters:** Dara, *a woman of Jesus' time, meaning "compassion"*  
Eliezer (*Eli'ezer*), *a man of Jesus' time, meaning "my God is help"*

### **Script:**

*Eliezer:* (excited) Shalom, Dara!

*Dara:* Shalom, Eliezer! How are you?

*Eliezer:* I'm doing very well! It is great to see you - (eagerly) I must tell you about last week!

*Dara:* You look like you're ready to jump out of your sandals! What happened?

*Eliezer:* I met HIM! The one they all talk about, the teacher – Jesus!

*Dara:* Really? I saw him teach yesterday! He is like no rabbi I've ever met. What did he do when you saw him?

*Eliezer:* Let me start at the beginning. Did you hear about what King Herod did last week to the prophet John? The one who baptized people in the Jordan?

*Dara:* (disgusted) Yes – it was so terrible how Herod killed him for that silly daughter of his.

*Eliezer:* Well, it was the day after John died – I was cleaning my fishing gear along the Sea of Galilee when someone ran by shouting that the teacher was nearby. He and his disciples were in a boat traveling along the shore.

I don't know what came over me, but I just left my gear – my whole livelihood - there on the beach and ran! A whole crowd of us – someone said they thought there were 5,000 of us men - we ran to where they were coming to the shore.

*(empathetically)* And you know, he was friends with John – I would bet that he had only just heard of his death and wanted to be alone with his friends to mourn – that’s what I would want to do.

*Dara:* *(sarcastically)* That would make sense, Eliezer – but Jesus never does anything that makes sense. What did he do?

*Eliezer:* You’re right about that – *(in awe)* as tired as he looked and as much as his disciples grumbled – he got out of the boat and began teaching and healing people -- you could tell he cared more about us than any leader I’ve ever seen. But, Dara, that’s not even the best part of the day...

*Dara:* I don’t know what could get better about it! Go on.

*Eliezer:* Well, late in the afternoon, those grumbling friends of his brought to his attention that it was dinner time and that he should send us all away to find food since there was nothing nearby. Now, any rabbi I know would have done that – but he didn’t!

*Dara:* *(excited because the same thing happened to her yesterday)* I think I know where you’re headed, but keep going!

*Eliezer:* Instead of sending us away – he told his disciples to feed us! Kind of put them in their place if you know what I mean.

They went around through the crowd asking us if anyone had food to share. One little boy in rags brought up his basket – he had five small barley rolls and two sardines. That was all they could find, but Jesus said it was enough!

He told his friends to have us all sit down in groups on the green grass. We looked like rows in a vegetable garden!

*(gesture with hands)* So, Jesus stood up with the rolls and fish in his hands, he looked up to the heavens and gave thanks for the meal. Then he broke the bread and gave it to his friends to pass around.

You should have seen their faces! They had no idea how to feed 5,000 men, plus even more women and children, with only five small loaves of bread and two little fish!

*Dara:* *(guessing what happened)* But they did! Everyone had enough to eat – no one with too much and no one with too little.

*Eliezer:* Yes! How did you know? It was miraculous – there is no other word. And not only did everyone have enough – they collected the leftovers in the

disciples' lunch baskets. That's right – twelve baskets of leftovers! That's more than he started with!

*Dara:* It was a miracle from God – and he did it again yesterday! I was with a crowd of 4,000 men!

And you know, I don't understand how Jesus picked these disciples – you would think after seeing him feed you all last week, that they would understand how he will provide for his people. But yesterday, Jesus had to bring up the topic himself! I mean how slow can you be?

*Eliezer:* He did it again? Another 4,000 men plus women and children! Were there leftovers?

*Dara:* Yes! There was an abundance! Seven large basketfuls of bread!

*Eliezer:* You know, I just realized...they say he was born in Bethlehem during the Census, right?

*Dara:* Yeah, so?

*Eliezer:* Well, you know what "Bethlehem" means, don't you? The House of Bread.

*(Both pause for a moment, and then walk off stage)*