

God's
great
harvest

Jesus focused the apostles' attention on a child and said, "*Except ye (grown-ups) be converted (change), and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*"

In order for an adult to be saved, he must have childlike qualities, which are prerequisites for salvation. These are—

- humility—a child is naturally humble and teachable,
- faith—he believes what he is told, whether it is true or false.

He needs to hear the gospel while it is easy for him to believe. Later, pride and peer pressure will make it difficult for him to believe.

Children are God's most fruitful harvest field for converts. When a child is saved, he has his entire life to serve God, and child converts become the majority of workers in God's future harvest fields.

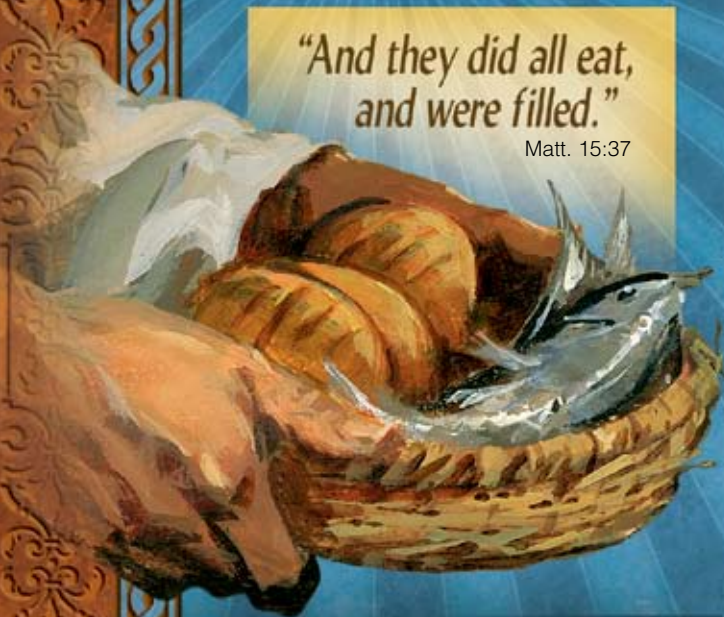
Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus
Feeds 4,000!

Peter's Confession

"And they did all eat, and were filled."

Matt. 15:37



Besides the 4,000 men, there were probably some women and children.

This meant Jesus fed 5,000 or more people that day.

Scripture to read before next study

Matt. 18:6, 10, 11 19:13-15 Deu. 11:18-21

Jesus feeds 4,000

The 4,000 men left home 3 days before; Jesus knew they needed food. He asked the disciples to find out how much bread the people had, which was only 7 loaves and a few little fish.

Jesus commanded the crowd to sit down on the ground, and He gave thanks and began breaking the loaves and fishes. The disciples then distributed the food to the multitude.

Notice, Jesus first gave thanks, which teaches us to thank God for our food. Afterward, He had the disciples gather the leftovers. From this, we learn an important economic lesson—not to be wasteful with leftovers, or anything.

Rock is CHRIST

Jesus asked, “Whom say ye that I am? Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus said, “Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” Matt. 16:18.

“The ‘rock’ on which Christ built His church is not Peter, but the **truth** which Peter confessed—that Jesus is the Son of God. The deity of Jesus is the foundation on which the Church rests. The common interpretation is—at Pentecost—Peter opened the door of salvation to Jews (Acts 2) and later to Gentiles (Acts 10).

Peter was not given power to forgive sins, but to proclaim the **terms of forgiveness.**”

—Halley

BEWARE wrong doctrine

Jesus said, “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees” Matt. 16:6.

He warned His disciples to beware of wrong doctrine from religious leaders.

The apostle Paul also warned about this, for Satan continues to deceive even Christian leaders into wrong doctrine.

“Now I beseech you, brethren, **mark** them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and **avoid** them. For they... by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple” Rom. 16:17, 18.

To “**mark** them” and “**avoid** them,” means—to stay away from them.

Peter vs. Popes

“Peter never claimed superiority over the other Apostles. Neither did he, nor any of the Apostles, ever profess to forgive anybody’s sins. We may forgive sins against ourselves. The Church may forgive sins against itself. But only God can actually forgive sin.

“Nowhere in the NT is there a hint that Peter’s authority... was to be passed on to the Popes.... There is no support here for Rome’s claim that her priesthood has power to grant absolution—forgiveness of sin. Only God can forgive sin. For any man, or set of men, to assume the privilege is an arrogance and nothing short of blasphemy.”

—Halley (adapted)

