

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Matthew 14: 13-21

13. When Jesus heard of it, and had verified the same by questioning several of his disciples about the reports, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart. And some did say that he did make his journey by camel, for that was verily a ship of the desert, but they misunderstood the narrative. And when the people had heard thereof, that he had departed unto a barren place they followed him on foot out of the cities making no provision except a firkin of water apiece.
14. And Jesus when he had settled on a place to stay Jesus went forth from his encampment and saw a great multitude gathered before him, their tents erected and fires lit, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he moved amongst them and healed their sick, even those with boils in hidden places.
15. And when it was evening his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, for they were perceptive. And casting their eyes unto the sky they did declare, The time is now past and the market stalls will be closing. Send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals from the shops that remain open, even those that sell baked lamb patties in bread buns with onions.
16. But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat. And they talked amongst themselves asking, Who has brought the victuals? and Is there any wine? And they did look in their bags and were disappointed.
17. And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes, and a couple of bags of dates.
18. He said, Bring them hither to me and covet them not, for did I not say Give and ye shall receive an hundredfold?.
19. And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, for there was much there and the ground was soft, though some thistles did scratch their legs and other parts. And he took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. But the two bags of dates were not found, and they disciples did question as to where they had gone, but they received no answer.
20. And they did all eat, and were filled, and there was much belching and passing of wind so that the night air was disturbed. And the disciples took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full, and did search them for the dates, but there was still no sign.
21. And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children, and a great noise arose in the camp so that the disciples did wish that Jesus had gone up a mountain as was his wont.