

A Meal & a Walk

by John Walsh

The events of this drama takes place after Jesus tells the disciples to find food for everyone, and before Andrew brings the boy with the lunch.

The marking (...) indicates a dramatic pause

James: "I don't understand. What are we supposed to do?"

Peter: "Oh, you heard him right. We are to find food for everyone."

James: "But there are at least 5,000 hungry men on this hill ... and that doesn't include a bunch of women and children."

Peter (with sarcasm): "Ah, I think you are starting to get the picture now."

John: "Maybe there is a spiritual meaning here. I bet we are not really looking for physical food. We are to understand how people are hungering for spiritual life." (the others stop and look at John in disbelief.) "You know, they are like (hands up with a far away look in his eyes) ... 'sheep without a shepherd' ... 'doves among wolves' ... like, like ... 'hungry people without a lunch.' (the others start laughing at him)

Peter: "John, where do you come up with this stuff? Those men are hungry – **physically** hungry. They don't want philosophy. They want food!"

James: "Why would he ask us to do something that is not possible? He knows we can't feed this many people."

Philip: "I told him that. I said that even eight months wages could not buy enough food to feed all these people."

Peter: "Yah, I heard you say that. That is when I pointed out the simple solution to this problem. 'Send them into the surrounding towns so they can buy food for themselves.' But, oh no. He insisted we feed them."

John: "Has anyone asked Judas how much we have in the kitty?"

James (with sarcasm): "Yah right! As if we could get a penny from his tight fingers. Besides, there is no way we have even a fraction of what it would take to feed this many people."

Andrew: “Hey guys. I found this boy who is willing to give us his lunch. I am going to take it to Jesus.

Philip: “His lunch? How much is it? Did he bring it on seven donkeys?” (others laugh)

Andrew: (frown) “No, he has ... well, let me see ... (takes lunch and looks at it)
He has (one, two, three) He has two small fish and five barley loaves.”

Others laugh, except Peter who says: “Andrew, stop embarrassing our family name!
You know that isn’t enough to feed this crowd.

Andrew: “Well, I don’t care what you guys think. Jesus said to go out and find food. And I have found food, which I might add is more than y’all have found. I am taking the boy to Jesus. (He takes boy and walks out a side entrance.)

Philip: “He has a point. He has found more than we have. I think I will go with him and see how the Master responds to the little lunch. (starts walking out)

John: “Well, I still think we are to see the deeper meaning here.
You know ... how we are to love one another ... even though we are hungry.”

James: “Oh John, get over it. Next thing we know,
you will be writing a book on the subject.”

Peter is last to leave. He scratches the back of his head as if in thought.
He turns to the audience and says:
“I just don’t understand how he could ask the impossible of us.
Next thing we know, He will want us to ... I don’t know... well, he will want us to ... **Walk on Water!**”