**Thesis:** Do you believe that God cares for all your needs? Sometimes we might feel small, resulting in feeling like some of our needs are insignificant to a God bigger than the universe. Even David contemplates this in Psalm 8:3-4 as he writes *“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?”* But Jesus reminds us time and time again that our heavenly Father knows what we need, and he’ll provide for us if we seek him.

**Introduction:** You’re listening to The Jesus Podcast, a year of stories showcasing the depth of Christ’s love and the glory of God’s truth. I’m \_\_\_\_ your host from Pray.com. Thanks for joining us today for another epic story all about Jesus! If you want to help keep the stories coming, make sure to follow the podcast.

**Context:** Today’s story might sound a little familiar if you’ve been following along with our series through the miracles of the Messiah. While Jesus has already miraculously fed a crowd of 5,000 men plus women and children, we’ll see him once again feed a similarly sized gathering. But don’t let that stop you from being swept away in the moving story of Jesus’ compassion and care. The story takes place shortly after Jesus heals the deaf and mute man in Decapolis. As Jesus anticipated, word of his miracles spread quickly throughout the surrounding cities and people were common enmasse to see and experience the Healer’s powers for themselves. We’ll have the chance to see the disciples' growth over time as we see them acknowledge the familiarity of the scenario, but this time with a better understanding of Jesus’ intentions and ready to jump in to participate in another miracle with their Messiah.

**Message:** As if feeding 5,000 people wasn’t an incredible act, Jesus astounds once again by feeding a crowd of 4,000 men after he had already spent all day with them healing their sick, lame, blind, deaf, and mute. Miracle after miracle came forth from the hands of the Healer, but Jesus wanted his disciples to learn that he always had more to give. He wanted to show them that the work was never done.

In *Matthew 9*, we’re told that Jesus had compassion for the people, viewing them as sheep without a shepherd. And it was with that compassion that he turned to his disciples and said, *“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”*

The disciples were quickly learning that Jesus’ words weren’t an exaggeration. There were thousands in Decapolis alone, and millions more around the world, who needed the healing power of the gospel. But the workers were few, and they would be the first of them that Jesus would send out.

In Matthew’s account of this story, we’re told that the people were amazed with Jesus and responded by praising God. While this may seem like a logical response to us, it always isn’t the case for someone who has an encounter with God. For a lot of people, there’s a genuine sense of gratitude. And that’s a good response to have when God works in our lives, but it shouldn’t end there. More than being thankful like we would with a friend who does something good to or for us, God deserves our worship and praise for the wonderful things He does in our lives.

In *Revelation 4*, the apostle John records his vision of the throne room of heaven, where he writes down the words of twenty-four elders who worship at the feet of God. In verse 11 we read, *“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”*

Jesus isn’t just someone who does good things. He is the embodiment of good, the definition of good. This alone should set apart his good works in our minds as more than mere acts of kindness. They are the very power of God moving through our lives to bless us physically and spiritually. When God does something tremendous in your life, be thankful, but above all, be worshipful. Pour out praises to the King of kings, the Creator of all things.

When Jesus performed miracles, he was affirming and proving his divine nature. He wasn’t just there to help people physically. He was there to lead them to salvation that could only be attained through him as the sacrificial Son of God. He was more than a miracle worker. He was more than a prophet working with power from heaven. The authority that Jesus held and exercised through his teachings and miracles were indicative that he had come from heaven as the Son of God, sent by the Father, and filled with the Holy Spirit.

The apostles even use this evidence of Jesus’ godship on the day of Pentecost in *Acts 2:22* when Peter says, *“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.”*

But still, Jesus performed miracles with the needs of the people held close to his heart. As always, he was propelled to minister to others through compassion. He knew the heavy burdens that each heart held. Felt the weight, pain, and suffering of those in need of healing. And it’s a testament to just how much he loves us that before anyone asked him to perform this miracle, he recognized the hunger of the people after three days with him and without a proper meal. Unlike many of his other miracles, he didn’t wait for another to come to him to express their need or ask him to do something for them. But in compassion and tender care, he considered how he might help.

Though God wants us to bring him our needs, he doesn’t only meet them when we ask him to. Yes, we should be coming to God in prayer and supplication, as Paul writes in *Philippians 4:6* when he says, *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”*

But God isn’t sitting up in heaven with his arms crossed, waiting for us to come beg to him before he finally relents and responds to our requests. God is with us in every moment, is aware of what we need, and is working to provide for us even before we ask. He will not and cannot leave or forsake us. He will always be faithful with us because of who he is. So continually come to God and remember your dependence upon Him, but don’t think for a second that he isn’t already preparing a way to satisfy your heart and fulfill your needs. Like a loving Father, he is proactive in caring for his children.

We read in *James 1:17 “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”*

Our heavenly Father knows how to give good gifts. It’s in his nature. And he will never change.

It’s interesting to note that this is the second time Jesus performs a miracle like this. And it wasn’t because he only had so many types of miracles he could perform that he had to have a few repeats in there. Jesus is driving a point home. These people weren’t coming to him because they were physically hungry. Whether they knew it or not, they were coming to him because they were spiritually hungry. And he was showing that if he could provide earthly food to fill them and have even more leftover, how much more could he fill their souls with the bread of life? Just as he was giving them an abundance of earthly food, he was prepared to give them an abundance of spiritual food that would give them life, and life more abundant.

This same spiritual food is made available to us. Jesus wants to satisfy our every need and give us life more abundant. And all it requires is that we come to him in faith, knowing that he himself is the source of life.