

Those who came to hear Jesus also saw some of the wonderful ways in which he changed people's lives. Jesus also healed people and cared for their needs by working miracles. Matthew, Mark and Luke describe the miracles as powerful acts from God. John calls them signs because they point to the presence of God in Jesus. In all the gospels, the miracle stories tell us who Jesus is and why he has come. They show that in Jesus the power and love of God his Father touches our world. A miracle is good news of God's love and care for people and God's presence.

JESUS CALLS LEVI (based on Luke 5:27-32)

One day Jesus noticed a tax collector called Levi sitting in the tax office. Jesus said to him, "Follow me."

Levi got up, left everything, and followed Jesus.

Levi gave a party in honour of Jesus. Among the people he invited were a large number of tax collectors and sinners. Some Pharisees and Scribes complained to the disciples, "Why does your master eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus answered them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, only sick people do."

Bread is a basic food. Do you remember the manna that the People of God ate in the desert? Luke's Jewish readers would probably remember this when they heard of Jesus feeding the people in a lonely place. In John's gospel, Jesus says, 'I am the bread of life'. Christians read of this miracle and remember that in Holy Communion Jesus gives himself.

JESUS FEEDS THE PEOPLE (based on Luke 9:12-15)

Jesus had been speaking to the crowds all day. As evening drew near his disciples came to him and said, "Send the people away so that they can go to the nearest villages to find food and shelter for the night, because this is a lonely place."

Jesus said to them, "You give them something to eat."

They answered, "We have only five loaves and two fishes. Are we to go and buy food for all these people?"

There were about five hundred men there. (Luke does not say how many women and children were also there.)