

## **Main Characters:**

A thematic parallel of the feeding of the multitude is the account of Elisha miraculously feeding the 100 sons of the prophets. Elijah, and his successor, Elisha, are symbolic figures pointing to the work of John the Baptist and Yeshua (Yeshua).

### John the Baptist – the Prophet Elijah:

Matthew 17: 11 Yeshua answered and said to them, “Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. 12 But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.” 13 Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.

### John’s Message: Repent

Matthew 3: 1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

### Yeshua – the Prophet Elisha:

2 Kings 2: 9 And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?”

Elisha said, “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.”

### Yeshua’s Message: Repent

Matthew 4: 12 Now when Yeshua heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee... 17 From that time Yeshua began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

### Double portion:

Matthew 3: 11 I (John speaking) I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

### First time Elijah’s mantle was put on Elisha:

1 Kings 19: 19 So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who *was* plowing *with* twelve yoke *of oxen* before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him.

### First time Yeshua took up John’s mantle:

Matthew 4: 12 Now when Yeshua heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee... 17 From that time Yeshua began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

### Second time Elijah’s mantle was put on Elisha:

2 Kings 2: 9 And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?” Elisha said, “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.” 10 So he said, “You have asked a hard thing. If you see me taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be *so*.” 11 Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire *appeared* with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ... 13 He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan.

Second time Yeshua took up John's mantle:

Matthew 14: 10 So he sent and had John beheaded in prison. 11 And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought *it* to her mother. 12 Then his disciples came and took away the body and buried it, and went and told Yeshua.

13 When Yeshua heard *it*, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. 14 And when Yeshua went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

Yeshua takes on the mantle twice, feeds the multitude twice, and baptizes twice, all showing the double portion.

Elisha then miraculously crossed the water:

2 Kings 2: 14 Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where *is יהוה* God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.

Yeshua then miraculously crossed the water:

Matthew 14: 25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Yeshua went to them, walking on the sea.

**Supporting Cast:**

The multitude of the first miraculous feeding is directly related to Elisha's feeding of the sons of the prophets, as shown by the use of the number 5 (50, 5000) in the two accounts.

The prophets:

1 Kings 18: 3 And Ahab had called Obadiah, who *was* in charge of *his* house. (Now Obadiah feared יהוה greatly. 4 For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of יהוה, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.) ... 13 Was it not reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of יהוה, how I hid one hundred men of יהוה's prophets, fifty to a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

The sons of the prophets watched Elisha miraculously cross the water:

2 Kings 2: 3 Now the sons of the prophets who *were* at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that יהוה will take away your master from over you today?" ... 5 Now the sons of the prophets who *were* at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that יהוה will take away your master from over you today?"

So he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

7 And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing *them* at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan. ... 14 Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where *is יהוה* God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.

15 Now when the sons of the prophets who *were* from Jericho saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him, and bowed to the ground before him.

The multitude watched Yeshua miraculously cross the water:

Matthew 14: 21 Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

22 Immediately Yeshua made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away ...

John 6: 22 On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Yeshua had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone— 23 however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks— 24 when the people therefore saw that Yeshua was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Yeshua. 25 And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You come here?”

Miraculous feeding of the fifty + fifty sons of the prophets:

2 Kings 4: 42 Then a man came from Baal Shalisha, and brought the man of God (Elisha) bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley bread, and newly ripened grain in his knapsack. And he said, “Give *it* to the people, that they may eat.”

43 But his servant said, “What? Shall I set this before one hundred men?”

He said again, “Give it to the people, that they may eat; for thus says יהוה: ‘They shall eat and have *some* left over.’” 44 So he set *it* before them; and they ate and had *some* left over, according to the word of יהוה.

Miraculous feeding of the five thousand:

John 6: 8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, 9 “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?”

Matthew 14: 20 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. 21 Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.