



# **Feeding the Five Thousand**

**John 6:3-13**

**Algernon was getting anxious. His brother Chauncey had left several hours earlier to fly to the island of Togo to pick up their mail. Unfortunately, he seemed to be running late. Algie did not like to wait on mail day. He lived on a lonely tropical island with his brother at their flight school, so mail was the only way he could hear from his family and friends. Algie looked out the window again, and again. He hoped Chauncey was o.k. Algie tried calling Chauncey again on the radio, but he got no reply. "He must still be too far away to get the signal," Algernon thought.**

**Algie walked outside the flight school office and stood in the bright, tropical sunlight. A cool breeze was blowing from the ocean. The sound of the waves breaking on the shore was like gentle music to Algie's ears. Suddenly, another noise sounded above the waves. It was the hum of an airplane!**

**Algie turned and ran toward the landing strip. He arrived just in time to see his brother's plane clear the treetops and line up with the sandy runway. As Algie expected, the engine began to sputter and the plane dipped and bounced at odd angles. Of course Chauncey was having trouble landing! He was a Bonzai and Bonzai brothers were well known for their crash landings.**

**Algie ducked behind some bushes and listened to the creaking, cracking, groaning sounds as the plane clunked hard onto the runway, bounced and rolled down its length, and came to stop in the bushes several feet past the end.**

**Algie ran out from under the bushes. "Chauncey, are you all right?"**

**"Tally ho! I made it!" Chauncey called back as he climbed down from his dented, yellow plane. "Don't worry about me, good brother, I had quite a good landing, really!"**

**Algie smiled and greeted his brother. "So good to see you back safe! Did you bring us the mail from Togo?"**

**Chauncey scooped up a stack of letters from the passenger seat of his plane and waved one envelope in the air. "It is mail, but not just any mail! I hold in my hand a letter from our own sweet mother, Mumsy."**

**Algie grabbed at the envelope. "Well, what does she say? What does she say? For heaven's sake open the letter!"**

**"Right you are!" Chauncey said as he pulled the envelope out of Algie's reach and slit open the top with a key. "It says: 'Dear Algernon and Chauncey, I miss my sweet little Monkey Toes and Schnookie-kins.'**

**Algie was embarrassed. "Oh mother! Does she have to use those names?"**

**Chauncey laughed, "Right you are, Monkey Toes!" He continued reading, "'I miss you both so much that I have decided to fly down for a visit. I have told all of our friends and neighbors here in England about the fine work my two boys are doing distributing God's gifts to missionaries all over the world! Our friends have gathered many gifts and supplies to help your ministry. I shall bring them with me so that you may distribute them to others who need them. See you next week. Love and Kippers, Mumsy."**

**Algie danced around and sang, "Mumsy's coming! Mumsy's coming!"**

**Chauncey did not join Algie in his dance but instead looked concerned. "Oh my! I must go and get everything perfect for Mumsy; I should fly over to China and pick up some of Mumsy's favorite tea! I say, Algie, can I borrow your aeroplane? Mine needs to be towed out of the bushes!"**

**Algie nodded his head. "Certainly, dear brother! Fly safely!"**

**Chauncey ran across the runway to the hangar to retrieve Algie's plane. Algie made his way down the path to their beach-side hut. "Oh my, my, my, I am so excited! We're going to see our dear sweet Mumsy!"**

**Just then, a squawky voice high up in the branches of a big, green, leafy tree called out to him. "Algie! Algie! Algie! Algie! Algie! Algie! Algie! Algie!"**

**Algie looked up; puzzled at who could be calling his name. "WHAAAAT?!!!" he yelled. Suddenly, he recognized the squawky voice, "Oh, is that you Pepper?"**

**Pepper the Pelican flew down to a lower branch. "Hi."**

**"Oh, hullo Pepper," Algie said. "Guess what?"**

**"Let me see...your mom's flying in from England and bringing supplies for you to distribute?" Pepper replied.**

**Algie looked surprised. "Why, yes. How did you know?"**

**Pepper let out another squawk. "You and your brother are so loud; it's kinda hard to miss. But, I do have a question for you. What's with all of this distributing business?"**

**"Pepper, old chap, distributed means to deliver or give things out to people." Algernon answered.**

**"You guys live in a grass hut on a deserted jungle island. If I were you, I'd be holding onto every little thing I got." Pepper said with a flip of his beak.**

**"Ah, Pepper, that's what some people might think, but we want to be more like Jesus. Jesus loved to distribute! That means Jesus loved to give to others. Like the day He fed five thousand people." Algernon began.**

**Pepper hopped off of the branch and landed a few feet in front of Algie. "Jesus fed 5,000 people?! Holy guacamole! What did He do? Take them to McDonald's?!"**

**Algie laughed. "Oh, Heavens no! The disciples found someone willing to share his food. Let me read to you what the disciple Andrew said." Algie turned to John, chapter 6. He read, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"**

**"Five pieces of bread and two lousy fish!" Pepper flapped his wings. "That wouldn't even fill my belly! No way that's gonna feed 5,000 people!"**

**Algie continued. "That's what the disciples thought. But Jesus thanked God and distributed the boy's bread and fish. And when everyone had had enough to eat, Jesus told the disciples to gather the pieces that were left over. And, can you believe, there were enough leftovers to fill twelve baskets!"**

**Pepper flew back to the branch above Algie's head. "What?! Twelve baskets?! But there were only two fish and five loaves to begin with! I call that impossible."**

**Algie smiled. "Do you know what I call it? A miracle!"**

**Pepper nodded. "A miracle! You know, I think I get it. When you give what you have, God blesses more people than you can imagine!"**

**"That's right Pepper!" Algernon smiled at his friend. "That's what the church is all about. Each one giving what we have to build His Kingdom all around the world!"**

**"Count me in, Monkey toes!" Pepper shouted. "I don't have much but I'll share what I have."**

**"Pepper, you'll see...It's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do!" Algie said throwing his arm around the large bird in a loose hug.**

**"Well Algie, I'd love to stay and chat, but it's getting late and I need to go scoop up my dinner from the ocean. Hmm, I'm hoping I can catch some tuna!" Pepper flew over the treetops towards the crashing waves.**

**Algie waved. "Good show, Pepper! I have to go get ready for Mumsy's arrival!" he said as he walked up the beach towards his hut.**