

# Holy Fish Batman

Mark 6:30-44  
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Wall Street United Church

***In this dramatic dialogue, Andrew, a fisherman who is also a follower of Jesus, enters looking completely exhausted.***

**(\*Andrew is portrayed by Rev. Kimberly Heath)**

**Andrew:** I don't know if this following Jesus is all it's cracked up to be. Man, I'm beat.

***A reporter for the Nazareth Recorder & Times (\*reporter played by Paul Bullock) jumps up from the congregation:***

**Reporter:** *Excuse me. You're Andrew, one of Jesus' disciples right? I'm a reporter from the Nazareth Recorder & Times, and I'm wondering if I could have a few minutes of your time. Everyone is talking about the picnic of the century a couple of days ago. Our readers want the inside story.*

**Andrew:** (groan) Well I was really hoping to have a nap, but ok, just a few minutes.

**Reporter:** *You follow Jesus full-time?*

**Andrew:** Yeah, for the last couple of years. I'm a fisherman by trade.

**Reporter:** *Do you miss fishing?*

**Andrew:** Sometimes. This is certainly a different life from fishing. Lately I've been so tired I don't know if I can take much more. Not that fishing's easy. Almost every night that I go out on the sea of Galilee, I wonder if I'll make it back. Peter, my brother, he can swim a bit, but I can't. One bad storm or one little mistake and that's it. No, it's not easy, but fishing is simple and pretty much always the same. You go out and you pray you'll catch a ton of fish or at least some. You haul them in and clean 'em and then bring them to the market and then you hope people have a craving for fish & chips that night. Then you count your coins and go home and hope you've got enough. Enough to eat, enough to buy oil and flour and cloth.

**Reporter:** *And don't forget the taxes. . .*

**Andrew:** No kidding! Especially that new HFT, the Harmonized Fish Tax!

**Reporter:** *You made a decent living though, when you were fishing?*

**Andrew:** Yes, I did ok. But I was always afraid there wasn't enough. I think that part is more nerve-wracking than the thought of being drowned. I always worried that we wouldn't have enough. A cousin of mine got into a bad accident with some oxen and now he can't walk. They're living on almost nothing now. I don't know how they're surviving. I send them money when I can, but we hardly had enough for ourselves as it was. What if something like that happened to us? Another guy I know in Galilee lost his boat and all the equipment to a fire. Anything can happen. I try not to think about the 'what-ifs'. They can really eat away at you.

**Reporter:** *So why give up a relatively stable income to follow Jesus?*

**Andrew:** Good question! I still fish a little, not like before. I suppose I could always go back to it if I had to, maybe that's what helps me keep going. I don't know. That's the crazy thing! The last couple of years I haven't worried so much and there has always been enough.

**Reporter:** *There are 12 of you specially chosen to follow Jesus, right? How are you all being supported?*

**Andrew:** People just give stuff and even money to Jesus. Not so long ago Jesus healed a little girl and after that the father gave us all sorts of things and some money and it's kept us going. I don't know how it works, Judas looks after the money, but there always seems to be enough.

**Reporter:** *Let's get back to that day of the feast. How did it all begin?*

**Andrew:** Right, well we were supposed to get away for a while, just with Jesus. We'd just come back from some mission trips when he sent us out in groups of two, and we wanted to talk about what happened. It was kind of exciting being on the road; my brother Peter and I went together. We met a lot of great people—a lot of hurting people too. Life is hard. Doesn't matter where you go or who you meet: life is hard. Jesus wasn't with us on this journey of course, but we told people about him wherever we went and about the kingdom of God and we prayed for people. I think we made a difference. It felt pretty good –

amazing, actually. Some of those people were sure that God had forgotten them or was angry with them, but when we were there telling them about Jesus you could really feel God was right there. I don't have the right words, not like Jesus does, but it was pretty incredible.

**Reporter:** *So Jesus suggested you get away together?*

**Andrew:** That's right. Jesus always seems to know just what we need. Man, did we need a break. We were all wiped out. We have this spot we like to go to, out in the middle of nowhere, where there's no one around to bug us. It's just been so busy we've hardly had time to eat, let alone put our feet up. I was really looking forward to it. I knew we'd spend the day talking and laughing and praying and listening to what Jesus said. I knew there'd be time for a snooze too. I love it when we can get away and not have to worry about anything. That must be what it's like when you're rich and you have servants to do all the work. I bet they nap whenever they want and don't have a care in the world.

**Reporter:** *Yes, it must be nice to have so much that you don't worry about anything. So you never did get away then?*

**Andrew:** Nope. Someone must have seen us get in the boat and guessed where we were going. Unbelievable. By the time we got there, there were tons of people and more kept coming. I wanted to get out of there and find another place where we could get some peace but nooooo . . . not Jesus. He told us to put the boat ashore, and turned around and gave us a look that kind of said *if you can't beat 'em, join 'em*.

**Reporter:** *Why would he do that?*

**Andrew:** Jesus *really* likes people. Even the ones he doesn't know, it's like he does know them. It's like they're his own kids coming after him and he just can't turn his back on them when they're looking for a little more encouragement and advice and love.

**Reporter:** *You must have been annoyed.*

**Andrew:** A couple of the other disciples started grumbling, but there was no point. When Jesus makes up his mind and starts going that way, you might as well just follow. I learned that a long time ago.

The day wasn't as long as I thought it would be. Not so bad. At least not until my stomach started grumbling. We all needed to eat. It was getting late and time to wrap this shin-dig up and send the party crashers home. I nominated Peter to go and tell Jesus what we were thinking. The vote was unanimous – unless you count Peter's vote, heh heh! I was just trying to figure out how long it would take for people to start clearing out when Peter came back shaking his head. He said that he'd told Jesus – told him it was late and that everyone was hungry and that he should send them home so they could find something to eat. Do you know what Jesus said to Peter? He said: 'You feed them'".

**Reporter:** *Was he serious? What did he mean by that?*

**Andrew:** That's what we wanted to know!! We couldn't feed them. Peter said to Jesus 'What are we supposed to do? Go buy 200 denarii worth of food to feed them?' We all laughed when we heard that line.

**Reporter:** *You guys don't have that kind of money, do you?*

**Andrew:** Only in our dreams!

**Reporter:** *So what did Jesus say?*

**Andrew:** Jesus told Peter to go see how much we had.

I was thinking that Jesus had been out in the sun too long. "How much do we have? How much do we have??!! I'll tell you how much we have – not enough!" We had five loaves of bread and 2 fish. That's it! That was our lunch! I wasn't even sure it was enough for *me*. I was hungry! I mean I'm not against sharing, but what's the point of sharing 5 loaves of bread and 2 little fish with a gazillion people... "one crumb for you, one crumb for you..." I mean come on. Let's get real! I just about blew a gasket. Probably because I was tired and hungry; I really didn't need these games. Fishing was so much simpler.

**Reporter:** *So what did you do? I mean what was Jesus thinking?*

**Andrew:** I looked over to Jesus – he was kneeling down laughing and talking with a little kid. Just then he looked over to us and caught my eye. He smiled at me with a look that said, "Don't worry, it's going to be ok." Man that guy! You couldn't help but smile back.

So while some of the guys were still grumbling and arguing I just took a deep breath, got up and walked over to the boat. I got the lunch out and brought it to Jesus. I'd come too far not to trust him now – even if he was just playing a game that seemed way funnier to him than it did to me. When I gave him our lunch he looked me in the eye and said, "Thank you, Andrew."

Funny. . . it always feels good giving to Jesus. Of course I always feel like I'm giving him what's really his and not mine at all, but he always makes me feel like I've given him the world. He looked so proud of me that I had given him our lunch.

**Reporter:** *What did he do with the lunch? Did he say some magic words?*

**Andrew:** Magic words? Jesus isn't some kind of clown or magician. He thanked God for the bread and for the fish, then he had us get people into groups and we started handing out food.

**Reporter:** *Was there some kind of lightning from the sky? How did you go from 5 loaves and 2 fish to feeding hoards of people?*

**Andrew:** Look, I don't know how it works. Somehow miracles always end up seeming natural with him. It's a God thing, that's all I can say. Somehow there was far more than crumbs, and we fed everyone. In fact, at the end of it all, we gathered up the leftovers so we could eat ourselves, and there was *way more* left than what we started with. Jesus supersized our lunch! Jesus sent us out in the boat with a ton of food and he stayed behind to dismiss the people.

**Reporter:** *I'm missing something.*

**Andrew:** Join the club.

**Reporter:** *Well, if you don't know how he did it, can you at least tell me why he did it? I mean, they could have gone home, right? No one would have starved if he hadn't performed that . . . that miracle.*

**Andrew:** Why? Now, **that** I'm beginning to understand. When you're with Jesus you feel like you're with God. Like you're already in the kingdom of God on earth. Jesus wants us to understand God's way. My way is always being afraid of not having enough, not enough food, not enough money, not enough energy, not enough health, not enough time. But I've had it wrong all along. There always seems to be enough around Jesus. Somehow when I trust Jesus – somehow when I give to Jesus the 'not enough' that I have – it turns into more, not just enough, but more than enough. You trust and you give yourself and what little you have to Jesus. You give your fears and your anxiety to him too, and he gives you back peace and adventure and . . . and a taste of heaven. Why? Because that's God's way and because he really, really likes us. In fact, he loves us.

Nothing in life is certain. I don't know what the future will hold. That's why I plan on staying close to Jesus, because he's more than enough.

Hey, why don't you come and see for yourself?

**Reporter:** *Uh, well... I've got this deadline ... and my editor, you know . . . but hey, that can wait. (He casually tosses his notes over his shoulder. ) I'm coming with you, Andrew. I really want to meet this Jesus.*