7.1

The Jewish community took God’s Commandments very seriously, even what may seem like the most trivial: Do Not Work on the Sabbath. They went out of their way to ensure they did not break this commandment. The smallest chore that might be considered essential to daily life was excluded from the day’s list on the Sabbath. When Jesus healed the blind man (who was blind from birth), the Pharisees called Jesus on the point that he had performed a healing (in their minds, “work”) on the Holy day when no work was to be done. Jesus responded to them that even Mosaic Law had exceptions to this Law. Babies were to be circumcised on the 8th day after their birth. If this day fell on Shabbat, it was permissible for ceremony to proceed. Jesus said that this was in keeping with God’s work, which was excluded from the rest. He pointed out that God himself does not rest on Shabbat because He is not bound by the Law. Jesus claimed that “healing” was not human work, but was “God’s work”, thus it was permissible on Shabbat.

7.2

When Jesus fed the crowd on the shores of the Sea, he was created an example of His Gift to mankind. Jesus took a few loaves of bread and some fish and was able to feed 5000+ people, and still have basketfuls left over. He had performed a miracle in which a small gift was enough for everyone there to have their fill. This was a precursor to his gift of salvation. He gave himself (a “small gift”) to be sacrificed for all others and yet, miraculously, this was enough for all of mankind to have their fill. For His grace is more than sufficient for every man.

His gift of salvation and the feeding of the crowd is also reminiscent of the feeding of the Hebrew people in the desert when God sent manna to sustain them. In the desert, there were countless thousands of people starving in a wilderness that offered no food. God saw their plight and sent relief to them in the form of manna, bread from heaven, to sustain them each day. This was a foreshadowing of Christ’s gift of himself. Christ’s love will sustain us until we are Judged, and even then, his Blood will atone for our sins. Again, God’s Love (through Christ’s suffering) are enough for all mankind.