

*Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes* (from *Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry* ), by Paul, Herman, and Johan Limbourg (fl. 1399–1416)

Art selection and commentary by [Heidi J. Hornik](#) and [Mikeal C. Parsons](#).

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This manuscript illumination depicting Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and fishes (Matt. 14:13–21 and parallels) is from one of the most famous books of hours, *Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry*, by the Limbourg brothers. A book of hours is a set of prayers and meditations correlated with the canonical hours. This one consists

of 206 pages (approximately 9 x 6 inches) with 66 large miniatures and 65 smaller illustrations. The Limbourg brothers were trained in the northern part of Europe but probably visited Italy and were influenced by the artists of Lombardy and Tuscany. The French court (King Philip the Bold's brother was the Duke of Berry) enjoyed these custom-made, lavishly illustrated, portable prayer books.