



Daily Reflections

February 10, 2018

Scripture

Mark 8: 1-10

In those days when there again was a great crowd without anything to eat, Jesus summoned the disciples and said, "My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat.

If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will collapse on the way, and some of them have come a great distance."

His disciples answered him, "Where can anyone get enough bread to satisfy them here in this deserted place?"

Still he asked them, "How many loaves do you have?"

They replied, "Seven."

He ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground.

Then, taking the seven loaves he gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to his disciples to distribute, and they distributed them to the crowd.

They also had a few fish.

He said the blessing over them and ordered them distributed also.

They ate and were satisfied.

They picked up the fragments left over—seven baskets.

There were about four thousand people.

He dismissed the crowd and got into the boat with his disciples

and came to the region of Dalmanutha.

Our Scripture Reflection

Because of the compassionate love in His heart for the hungry crowd, Jesus responded with immediacy. Please note, after blessing the loaves and fish Jesus gives them to His disciples to distribute. Our Lord wants us to do our part in meeting the needs of the hungry.

Food for your Journey

Fred Craddock tells the story of a missionary sent to preach the gospel in India near the end of World War II. After many months the time came for a furlough back home.

His church wired him the money to book passage on a steamer but when he got to the port city he discovered a boatload of Jews had just been allowed to land temporarily. These were the days when European Jews were sailing all over the world literally looking for a place to live, and these particular Jews were now staying in attics and warehouses and basements all over that port city.

It happened to be Christmas, and on Christmas morning, this missionary went to one of the attics where scores of Jews were staying. He walked in and said, "Merry Christmas."

The people looked at him as if he were crazy and responded, "We're Jews."

"I know that," said the missionary, "What would you like for Christmas?"

In utter amazement the Jews responded, "Why, we'd like pastries, good pastries like the ones we used to have in Germany."

So the missionary went out and used the money for his ticket home to buy pastries for all the Jews he could find staying in the port.

Of course, then he had to wire home asking for more money to book his passage back to the States.

Not surprisingly, his superiors wired back, asking what happened to the money they had already sent.

He wired that he had used it to buy Christmas pastries for some Jews.

His superiors wired back, "Why did you do that? They don't even believe in Jesus."

He wired back: "Yes, but I do."

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Make me an instrument of your compassionate love for those who are in need. As I show my love for them may I realize that I am loving You. Amen