



Daily Reflections

July 29, 2018

Scripture

John 6: 1-15

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee.

A large crowd followed him,

because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick.

Jesus went up on the mountain,

and there he sat down with his disciples.

The Jewish feast of Passover was near.

When Jesus raised his eyes

and saw that a large crowd was coming to him,

he said to Philip,

"Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?"

He said this to test him,

because he himself knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered him,

"Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little."

One of his disciples,

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him,

"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?"

Jesus said, "Have the people recline."

Now there was a great deal of grass in that place.

So the men reclined, about five thousand in number.

Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks,
and distributed them to those who were reclining,
and also as much of the fish as they wanted.
When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples,
"Gather the fragments left over,
so that nothing will be wasted."
So they collected them,
and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments
from the five barley loaves
that had been more than they could eat.
When the people saw the sign he had done, they said,
"This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world."
Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off
to make him king,
he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

Our Scripture Reflection

Today's Gospel contains the only miracle story recorded by all four Gospel writers. The point of this powerful story is simple: Jesus is the very Presence of God who provides ABUNDANTLY for the needs of His people. Unlike ourselves, when God gives He gives all that we need. John's account is unique when compared to those found in the other Gospels in one significant way. After feeding the crowd Jesus will then "feed" them with an extended teaching on His Presence in the Holy Eucharist. This account will unfold over the next few Sundays. Stay tuned.

Food for your Journey

The story is about what Jesus wants to do. Unlike in the other gospels, Jesus is not moved here by his compassion. No one had been complaining that they were hungry. No murmurs from the crowd. No restlessness. Nothing even from the disciples. There is no excitement among the crowd. This is not a group of people caught up in the mystery of the feeding. It's not like a bunch of baseball fans waiting to see if a pitcher can pull off a no-hitter. Will these 5,000 people really be fed by five loaves and two tiny fish?

In the story, at least, no one seems to care. The story is less about the magic than about the man. It is Jesus who suggests the meal, it is Jesus who distributes it.

John reports a miracle story. Jesus just wants people to eat.

—“Eating all natural,” faithchurchcambridge.org/grace46.htm. Retrieved February 20, 2006.

A Prayer from the Heart

Heavenly Father, You know the true needs of Your people and You always provide for us abundantly. May I always be aware of Your goodness to me, especially during those times when I take Your kindness for granted. May I show my gratitude by showing kindness to those who are in need. Amen