



# Daily Reflections

## January 8, 2019

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### Scripture

#### **Mark 6: 34-44**

When Jesus saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

By now it was already late and his disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already very late.

Dismiss them so that they can go to the surrounding farms and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

He said to them in reply,

"Give them some food yourselves."

But they said to him,

"Are we to buy two hundred days' wages worth of food and give it to them to eat?"

He asked them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see."

And when they had found out they said,

"Five loaves and two fish."

So he gave orders to have them sit down in groups on the green grass.

The people took their places in rows by hundreds and by fifties.

Then, taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people;

he also divided the two fish among them all.

They all ate and were satisfied.

And they picked up twelve wicker baskets full of fragments and what was left of the fish.

Those who ate of the loaves were five thousand men.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Today's Gospel text gives us the famous story of Jesus' feeding of 5000 hungry men. This is the only miracle story that is found in all four of the Gospels. Jesus' miracle teaches us three important points:

1. God always responds to our needs as He sees fit. 5000 men were hungry, 5000 people are fed.
  2. When God provides, He does so in abundance. He is not stingy. After 5000 men ate, there are twelve large baskets of leftovers.
  3. Jesus does not personally feed each hungry man. He gives the food to His disciples who then feed the people. Jesus expects us to work on behalf of the hungry.
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## **Food for your Journey**

A great lesson for your new year living....One summer day, a petite and well-poised 92-year-old woman, who fully dressed herself, put on makeup and fashionably coiffed her hair before 8 a.m. each morning, moved into a nursing home. Her husband of 70 years, a beloved pastor in their community, had recently passed away, making the move necessary.

After many hours of waiting patiently, she smiled sweetly when told her room was ready. As she maneuvered her walker to the elevator, her escort provided a visual description of her tiny room, including the eyelet sheet that had been hung on her window.

"I love it," she stated, with the enthusiasm of an 8-year-old who'd just received a new puppy.

"Mrs. Jones, you haven't seen the room, just wait."

"That doesn't have anything to do with it," she replied. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. How the room is arranged has

nothing to do with whether or not I will like it ... it's how I have arranged my mind. I have already decided to love it!"

She went on to share, "Each morning when I wake up, I choose to be positive and work with what I have, not dwell on what I have lost. As long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away just for this time in my life."

—"Deposit a lot of happiness," *Just Between Us*, Summer 2009, 6.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Even though at times You seem to be far, far, away, You really are close to me. You hear and are attentive to my needs. Help me in this new year to grow in my capacity to trust You. Lord, keep me faithful to You. Amen