



Daily Reflections

June 23, 2019

Scripture

Luke 9: 11-17

Jesus spoke to the crowds about the kingdom of God,
and he healed those who needed to be cured.

As the day was drawing to a close,
the Twelve approached him and said,

"Dismiss the crowd

so that they can go to the surrounding villages and farms
and find lodging and provisions;

for we are in a deserted place here."

He said to them, "Give them some food yourselves."

They replied, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have,
unless we ourselves go and buy food for all these people."

Now the men there numbered about five thousand.

Then he said to his disciples,

"Have them sit down in groups of about fifty."

They did so and made them all sit down.

Then taking the five loaves and the two fish,
and looking up to heaven,

he said the blessing over them, broke them,
and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.

They all ate and were satisfied.

And when the leftover fragments were picked up,
they filled twelve wicker baskets.

Our Scripture Reflection

Many people have spent years if not a lifetime in an attempt to figure out what Jesus expects of them. Today's Gospel reading presents His answer very simply: "Give them some food yourselves" and "He gave them the loaves and fish to set before the crowds." Jesus wants you and me, each of us who professes to be His disciples to take care of the needs of His people, especially the least in His Kingdom. And please note, one does not need a Masters' degree in Social Work or a PhD in Theology to,do so. All it takes is a community of people whose hearts are filled with compassionate love.

Food for your Journey

The founder of the Central City Mission in Jacksonville, Florida, Robert Bateman, was a minister who was not afraid to get his hands dirty in the service of Christ. Bateman came from England to personally lay the bricks of the mission in the city where drunken sailors poured into tattoo parlors, bars and whorehouses.

While sharing the Gospel, he provided thousands of meals, clothed the needy, visited those in jail and housed the homeless. He was called "the man who distributed more human sunshine than any other in Jacksonville."

A desperate letter from a girl employed in a house of ill repute prompted Bateman to return to England to study methods of Christian social work.

During a tour investigating the hotbeds of iniquity in London, the doctor also preached in revival services in English churches. On the return voyage to America, he conducted the only religious service aboard a ship of 2,207 people, concluding with his favorite hymn, "Nearer my God to Thee."

That night at 11:45 p.m. the ship Titanic struck an iceberg.

As Bateman escorted his sister-in-law to a lifeboat he said, "Don't be nervous, Annie. This will test our faith. I must stay and let the women go. If we never meet again on this earth, we will meet again in heaven." He threw his handkerchief into the descending lifeboat saying, "Put that around your throat. You'll catch cold."

Dr. Bateman collected about 50 men on the stern of the ship and told them to prepare for death. He led them in saying the Lord's Prayer and as the band played his favorite hymn, "Nearer my God to Thee," the great ship slid underwater.

The movies and books about the Titanic end with death. Robert Bateman, until his last breath, carried people to life. May we do the same.

-Worldscope Electronic Magazine, August 1999

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, I am both humbled and grateful to be Your Son's disciple. I ask for the Grace to remain close to His heart. May I do my best to meet the needs of the people He loved and cared for, the least in Your Kingdom. Amen