



# Daily Reflections

## February 15, 2020

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### 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.

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### Our Scripture Reflection

A once active and prosperous businessman who was dying from advanced lung cancer was asked about his life's accomplishments by a close friend. With a huge smile on his face he responded to his friend: "If you want to make God laugh, just tell Him your plans."  
The disciples had a plan. After having heard Jesus teach all day they wanted to send His audience back to their homes hungry. When Jesus had told the disciples to feed them they responded in an arrogant manner: "Where can anyone get enough bread to satisfy them here in this deserted place?"  
Jesus would never have settled for such a response. His plan was to feed the hungry and to save souls and that is exactly what He did that day.

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## **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."

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## **A Prayer from a Humbled Heart**

Dear Jesus, As Your disciple, You have called me to join You in helping to build Your Kingdom here on earth. At times I think that I have so little to offer You for my service. So I ask You to strengthen my faith and trust in Your power to help me. Give me above all a compassionate and loving heart. As I do the work You have entrusted to me, may I give You glory. Amen