



Daily Reflections

April 24, 2020

Scripture

John 6:1-13

After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee [of Tiberias].

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 [bit]."

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.

Our Scripture Reflection

The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand is the only miracle recorded by all four Gospel writers. For John, it is more than an act of power on the part of Jesus. It is one of the only seven "signs" that He will perform. Remember, for John what's key is what the sign is revealing about Jesus and His mission. What is the meaning of this sign? Jesus is God providing as God always does in abundance for His people. But reading further into this all important Chapter six, we will

witness how Jesus changed the meaning of how God provides. Instead of just meeting His people's physical/material needs for food, ultimately, Jesus will become the Bread of Life Who will give His very life, His Precious Body and Blood as food for the salvation of those who believe in Him.

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 wants 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

Dear Jesus, You are the Bread of Life. You gave Your body and blood so that we might have the promise of new and everlasting life. Nourish me with Your Presence so that I may be strengthened to become the disciple You redeemed me to be. Amen