

# Daily Reflections



The Divine Intervention

August 9, 2015

## *Scripture*

### **John 6:41-51**

The Jews murmured about Jesus because he said,  
“I am the bread that came down from heaven,”  
and they said,

“Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph?

Do we not know his father and mother?

Then how can he say,

‘I have come down from heaven’?”

Jesus answered and said to them,

“Stop murmuring among yourselves.

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him,  
and I will raise him on the last day.

It is written in the prophets:

They shall all be taught by God.

Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me.

Not that anyone has seen the Father  
except the one who is from God;  
he has seen the Father.

Amen, amen, I say to you,  
whoever believes has eternal life.

I am the bread of life.

Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died;  
this is the bread that comes down from heaven

so that one may eat it and not die.  
I am the living bread that came down from heaven;  
whoever eats this bread will live forever;  
and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

## *Our Scripture Reflection*

We continue to read from John 6 which is known as the "Bread of Life discourse" and is found only in his Gospel. Today's passage begins with a vivid example of the old saying, "Familiarity Breeds Contempt." The crowd after having been miraculously fed by Our Lord instead of showing faith in and gratitude for Him, sneer and jeer because they think they know Him based on a surface level acquaintance. The deeper problem? Jesus said, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw Him." By this statement, He is pointing out their hard headedness and heartedness. They are not receptive to Jesus because they are not receptive to the Father's Grace. It looks as though they are heading in the same direction as their stubborn and faithless ancestors who, "ate the manna in the desert but died." Our world is still polluted with stubborn know-it-alls who lack humility and wisdom, and therefore, Faith. When will they get tired of being lonely and without peace?

## *Food for your Journey*

Some stories to help illustrate the richness of the Gospel.....

1. There was an Italian family that had fallen on hard times when their family business failed, and they lost everything. The neighbors were sympathetic, worked hard at fundraising and after a certain time managed to get them sufficient money for a trip to America, where the family believed they could make their fortune. The family had never been far from home so they had no idea how to prepare for a long sea voyage by boat from Cobh to New York. They bought bread and cheese, and packed a few boxes with sandwiches. They gathered in a single cabin on the boat with no desire to mix with others in case of finding themselves embarrassed or out of their depth. On the first, second, third, fourth and fifth day they ate sandwiches. From then on the sandwiches began to go bad and began to smell. By now they were all in a bad way. They felt sick, hungry and deeply discouraged. With a day or two left before reaching New York, one little lad begged his dad for a few pennies so he could go on the deck and buy some sweets. The dad gave him a few pennies and off he went. He didn't return and after an hour the father was forced to go up on deck and search

for him. When he came up on the deck he was amazed to find rows and rows of tables surrounded by people eating a beautiful dinner. There in the midst of them was his son, with a plate of turkey, ham, potatoes, and vegetables in front of him, together with a large beaker of Coke. The father came up behind him and whispered, "Why did you do this? You know rightly we cannot afford this." The young lad's eyes lit up as he replied, "Dad, we could have had this every day. This is all included with the tickets!" We too often fail to appreciate and enjoy the heavenly food freely given to us by a loving God (Jack McArdle in *And that's the Gospel Truth!*).

2. The night after winning the heavyweight boxing title from Jess Willard, the new champion Jack Dempsey woke up in his hotel room. It was two o' clock in the morning. Suddenly he felt terribly empty inside. He said later, "Success didn't taste the way I thought it would. I'd won the championship. So what?" That is why Jesus gives us this warning in today's Gospel: "Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life." [Fr. Mark Link, SJ)

3. Yesterday I visited one of our dear friends of this parish in the hospital. The word from the doctor was not good. The days ahead for him are hidden in a cloud, but in that cloud there is a glory, and already he is living in it. Yesterday morning he awoke to find a note from the night nurse pinned to his pillow: "I did not want to wake you," she had written, "but I want to thank you for our talk last night. It meant more to me than I can tell you." The talk was about her life, her sorrows and some of the tragedies that had come her way and of her many, many years away from God. In the night season they had talked of these things. Out of his faith and through his waves of pain, our friend spoke simply of the Lord he knows and trusts and loves. In the wilderness of the night before last at Akron General Hospital the Word of God came.

--George E. Ross, "The Wilderness Word of God," 8 December 1985.

## *Prayer from the Heart*

Dear Jesus, You are the nourishment and strength of my life! Please continue to feed me with Your Presence. Make my heart always humble and grateful towards You. Amen.