

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalm 145:10-18

You open wide your hand & satisfy the desire of every living thing. (v16)

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word & a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven & share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- John 6:1-21

¹Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain & sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up & saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves & two fish. But what are they among so many people?” ¹⁰Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, & when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” ¹³So they gathered them up, & from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”...

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. This is the only miracle in all four Gospels. Compare & contrast the accounts. What stands out to you? What new details do you notice? If you were on a jury, how well would these four witnesses convince you it happened as they testified? *See Matthew 14:14-21; Mark 6:34-44; Luke 9:11-17*
2. John makes great use of symbolism & allusion. Let your imagination soar as you explore possible wider meanings for the following: “mountain,” v3; what the boy gave, v9; the surplus left over, v13; & the number of baskets, v13. (Thanks, *Light on the Lessons!* issue “Lessons B Pr. 12, L17 LG” July 29, 2018 Available < bibleministries.org >

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. It’s been said that the difference between a *test* & a *temptation* is the intended outcome (*cf. Matthew 4:1; James 1:12-16*). Jesus tests Philip (v6; *cf. John 1:43-46*); do you think Jesus intends for him to pass or fail? Does he pass this time? How about here: *John 14:1-4*? This one: *Acts 8:1-40*? How do these episodes encourage you? *See also 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 9:10-15; James 1:2-4*
4. Sometimes we need a “loaves & fishes assessment” (*Mark 6:38; John 6:9*). Think of a few troubling areas of your everyday life; what resources has God *already* given to you to face & cope with the challenges (v9)? *See Small Catechism: Apostles’ Creed I, Lord’s Prayer “daily bread”; Matthew 6:25-34*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. What recent examples can you identify in your congregation that received seemingly meager resources & continue to pay dividends in the life of the community- much greater than were ever expected?
6. Interestingly both the Old Testament & Gospel lessons reference barley loaves, which in that time & place were “poor people’s food.” How does that underscore the inclusiveness of ministry instead of the need of others to be paternalistic, or fixers, or know-it-alls, or saviors on white horses, or rescuers?

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Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Series: The Heavenly Meal

07.25.21
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Feeds Us

God feeds his people: with manna, with loaves & fish, with grace

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” (v12)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

**A great prophet has risen among us!
God has looked favorably on us! (*Luke 7:16*)**

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