

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)



Matthew 14:13-21

'They all ate and were satisfied.'

At that time: When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' But Jesus said, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'We have only five loaves here and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Reflection

Jesus has just heard about the death of John the Baptist and withdraws to a quiet place. He needs time to grieve, but when He sees the crowds waiting for Him, He does not turn them away. Instead, He notices their needs, welcomes them and provides for them. The disciples see the crowd and think there isn't enough: not enough food, not enough resources, not enough to give. Jesus shows them that they already have something they can share. The five loaves and two fish may not have seemed like much, but placed in Jesus' hands, they became enough for everyone.

We are called to do the same. We might not always have the answer or be able to solve someone's problems, but we can still offer what we do have – our time, our attention, our friendship or a practical act of kindness. We don't need to wait until we have more to start giving. What we have, shared generously, can make a difference.

Materials needed

- Gospel Passage
- Food and Drink

Activity

Share food and fellowship with others. As a Youth SVP group, could you organise a tea party or simple meal for people in your community, perhaps for older people or those who may experience loneliness? If organising an event isn't possible, share some food with friends or family and take time to be properly present with one another. As you eat together, think about how something as simple as food can bring people together.

Call to Action

This week, share what you have – your time, friendship or skills – with someone who could use it.

