

Feeding of the hungry!

So Jesus poses a test question to Philip: How do we feed all those people; where do we buy bread for them?

Jesus already knew that this question was going to be decided by faith and not by sight.

So Philip looks closely at the situation; evaluates the situation and comes to the conclusion that six month of wages would not be enough to buy enough food for all the people. But the disciples put their heads together and came up with a boy who has 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish.

And that is what they brought to Jesus!

At this point Jesus takes over the situation and – I personally think – the test is over; and I am not sure if they passed or failed. Jesus takes action: His action is to ‘give thanks’; to ‘give thanks’ and to distribute the food faithfully.

And that is the extend of the Miracle; except that for all people to see there are more leftovers than there was food in the beginning. All have been fed!

Jesus demonstrates how to feed God’s people. He also does this in the second part of the Gospel.

The disciples are afraid; they are in need for safety; they were hungry for help in their efforts to row the boat; there might have been despair and fear. And then Jesus was coming to help; but they really got scared because in their need, in their hunger they were almost blind. They didn’t recognize their help so close by.

So Jesus takes action: he says: It is I; do not be afraid!

What is our hunger? What is our need? What is our deep desire?

There is the hunger we often recognize; the hunger for the food we buy in the grocery store. We also answer this type of hunger with our donations for the food pantry, our help in soup kitchens.

But there is so much hunger of a different kind. The hunger of the heart and soul. A hunger for a heart connection with God and other people.

Its often the hunger that speaks of our loneliness, the hunger that speaks of all the things where we have resigned; the hunger that lies under the bitterness and the hunger we feel when we grieve, when we are sad, when we feel despair.

And that hunger calls loudly to be stilled.
And sometimes the need of the hunger leads us down the wrong path, like King David, who adds one wrong onto another and so on until in the end he is a murderer.

God will feed us! God will meet us in our desire!
God will meet us in all..... in all our desires. David could have at any point brought his desire to God and God would have helped.

We think God as too small and as too large.
We think: This is too small to bother God with, or this is too embarrassing or too shameful to bother God with.
On the other hand: this is too big to trust that God can deal with it, or this is just not possible; like Philip: This is too much money!

Whatever we think about God, makes God small; whenever we put God in a box, we limit God.

Let me bring this on a different level; we are about to start a capital campaign;
Metaphorically speaking we have about 5000 people to feed. So our question is almost like Philips comment: We need a lot of money!

But what is our job in all of this; how are we supposed to feed all those people or come up with all the money we need.
Our Gospel text gives us three answers:
One: You ask around if anyone has some food and most likely there is a metaphorical boy who can provide some loaves and some fish.
Two: Whatever we find and can come up with; we give it to Christ!
Its Christ's job to do the miracle, once we have reached our end!
Three: Lets not be afraid when Christ shows up in the most unusual way ..
Like walking on water or something like that.

And all this is as valid for our loneliness as it is for our financial worries.
Its valid for everything!

One: ask for help, don't forget to ask Christ, and don't only ask Christ.

Two: whatever you/we find, bring it to Christ.

Three: don't be afraid when God acts!

One of God's actions is the Eucharist:

The Eucharist is God saying to us: I love you and I will feed you!

When we celebrate the Eucharist today ask yourself:

Am I willing to let God love me and am I willing to let him feed me!

And if you find unwillingness in you, if you find you are afraid of God

loving and feeding you; you just bring it to Christ! Christ will tell you:

It is I; do not be afraid.

Almighty God, in your Love turn our unwillingness and fear into Love for you!