

THE GOD OF WHAT IS SMALL



MULTIPLIES THE GIFTS

SETTING.

I place my bread and my fish, along with others, to feed those who gather around the word... My house is small, but well arranged for many to come in and sit down. It is time, it is time to put into play the dreams that open new paths that lead to new spaces.

Each one is a home with many rooms to welcome so many who come or are far away, let them rest here, I offer my life, with you I know what is the path that leads to the other and returns to You, so that I always enjoy your love, fraternal.

SONG. With Five Loaves and Two Fish - Javier Bru

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxXS0I6PrAw>

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MARK: MK 6:1-15.

“After this, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee, or of Tiberias, and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he had done in curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside and sat down there with his disciples.

The time of the Jewish Passover was near. Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, ‘Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?’ He said this only to put Philip to the test; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, ‘Two hundred denarii would not buy enough to give them a little piece each’. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, ‘Here is a small boy with five barley loaves and two fish; but what that is among so many?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Make the people sit down’.

There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were sitting there; he then did the same with the fish, distributing as much as they wanted. When they had eaten enough, he said to the disciples, ‘Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing is wasted’. So they picked them up and filled twelve large baskets with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. Seeing the sign that he had done, the people said, ‘This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world’.

Jesus, as he realised, they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, fled back to the hills alone.”

LET US DEEPEN THE TEXT.

The reaction of the crowd, after the multiplication of the loaves, expresses the fervor that reigned in Palestine at the time of Jesus since the Messiah was awaited with impatience: for this reason, when Jesus is seen healing the sick, they easily follow Him. John tells us how: «the crowd followed him, impressed by the signs He had done in curing the sick.»

The fervour was great particularly the days preceding the feast of Passover. This feast of past liberation (slavery in Egypt) foreshadowed, in everyone's eyes, the definitive liberation that the Messiah would bring. At present, Jesus is leading the masses towards the mountain. John wants us to understand undoubtedly, that the hour of the messianic banquet, announced by the prophet Isaiah, had sounded: «On this mountain THE LORD OF HOSTS will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines...» (Is 25:6).

Jesus begins asking Philip, one of the Twelve: «Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?» And John comments: «He said this only to put them to the test; because he himself knew exactly what he was

going to do.» But what means this "putting the Apostles to the test"? For a Jew like John, this expression refers to the Exodus experience: «THE LORD your GOD tested you to know what was in your heart» (Deut 8:2).

Probably, Philip has not understood that Jesus was testing his faith, and for this reason, he answers Him in a totally human way and full of common sense: «Two hundred denarii would not buy enough to give them a little piece each.» And Andrew adds: «Here is a small boy with five barley loaves and two fish; but what that is among so many?» From a human perspective, it cannot be said that they are wrong! But the common sense and the good reasons not always are good counsellors. Perhaps Philip and Andrew have forgotten the history of the prophet Elisha (first reading of this Sunday)?

Jesus just says: «Make the people sit down». And, why John remarks that «There was plenty of grass there» if it is not for making them to understand that «good shepherd» (another messianic image ref. Jn 10) tries always to lead always his sheep to good pastures? At this point, John changes the topic: «Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them». At this point, easily can be recognized the words at the Last Supper. Indeed, John does not relate anywhere the Institution of the Eucharist (he replaces it with the washing of the feet, Jn 13); but it is obvious that here, he refers to that event: The Christians to whom He is addressing quickly understand that the miracle of the loaves, on the little mountain of Galilee, is the sign of the Eucharist feast that they celebrate every Sunday after the Resurrection of Christ.

CLUES FOR THE PRAYER.

1. The question of Jesus to Philip, in addition to a test, could it not be a way to involve him in the task of Jesus? How do you feel involved in this task?
2. For the miracle they count on the small, “two loaves and five fish”, how do you value the small gestures?
3. What does the Eucharist mean in your daily life?

IF YOU JOIN, WE ARE MORE _____

VISUALIZATION. Nourishment of the five thousand people.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T'w3a9r8cbeo>

WHEN I LOOK FOR YOU, I FIND.

Listen to the sound of life,
to look at the fabric of what is endearing,
to melt myself into the dream of God,
to seek fidelity in everything.
To be with others, seeker,
of words, projects,
lived experiences that
continue to weave senses.
Turn things around
to take new paths,
that welcome new men,
builders of different things,
makers of open homes,
that allow free entry,
to the like and the diverse.
All bring their bread and fish,
and together we managed to give
to so many, without exhausting what we wear.
Love is inexhaustible,
is the multiplier of gifts.
Together with others,
let's put ours
and let's make it possible
that converge and add
words and gestures,
that satisfy the hungry
of simple, deep gestures,
full gestures.

SONG. Multiply the bread, Lord - Mariela Pizarro

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcon5tsBebA>



Sisters of Charity of Saint Anne. Zaragoza

C/ Madre Rafols, 13 - 50.004 - ZARAGOZA (Spain)

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