

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday November 11, 2024 - I Chronicles 16: 35

35 Cry out, "Save us, God our Savior; gather us and deliver us from the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name, and glory in your praise."

Read I Chronicles 16 for meditation and inspiration.



Abundance and the Bread of Life

"Give them something to eat yourselves" (Matthew 14:16).

A grandmother was enjoying a day alone with her six-year-old grandson. At lunch, the boy refused to eat anything she put in front of him. Frustrated, the grandmother said, "Honey, you don't like broccoli, you don't like carrots and you don't like peas. So please tell me, dear, what do you like?" With a little grin, the boy answered, "I like you, Grandma."

Most of us take for granted the goodness of God, who provides food to nourish our bodies. Indeed, for many of us, it's not too little but too much food that can be a problem. At the same time, we know that millions worldwide go to bed hungry each night, which should deeply concern us. But hunger is not the problem for most of us here today who can satisfy our hunger with all the broccoli, carrots, and peas we can eat -- or anything else from God's bounty.

Today's Gospel Lesson tells what happened when a crowd of more than five thousand followers had gathered. "Jesus takes pity on them and heals their sick," Matthew tells us (Mt. 14:14). Then it grows late in the day, and the disciples say to Jesus, "This place is desolate and the hour is already late; so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus rejects the

idea and says to the disciples, "You give them something to eat!" (Mt. 14:16). But they answer, " We have here only five loaves and two fish." At this point, Jesus instructs the crowd to sit on the grass. Then He blesses the meager food supply and hands it to the disciples to feed the crowd. And, miraculously, they can satisfy everyone's hunger -- with plenty of leftovers. (Someone has called this episode in the life of Jesus "The greatest Church-picnic of all time.")

A little girl was leafing through a children's book of illustrated Bible stories. When she came to the story of Jesus standing before the great crowd, and breaking bread. Seeing the child's fascination with the picture, her mother explained that this wasn't the real Jesus, only an artist's conception of Him. Still staring at the picture, the child replied, "Well, it sure looks like Him. And I wonder, Mom what do you think about all those leftovers?"

Honey, where there is Jesus there is always more than enough love to go around always more than enough joy to go around, always more than enough faith to go around and always more than enough hope to go around.

Jesus, the Bread of Life, is always dealing with abundance.

In Jesus name,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger".

Roger

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