

Sunday Reflection

◆ **First Reading:** *Jeremiah 23:1-6*

◆ **Second Reading:** *Ephesians 2: 13-18*

◆ **Gospel:** *John 6:1-15*

Who else was generous and instrumental in this story of the Miracle of the Loaves and two fish? I wonder who was the young boy who handed over the family lunch of 5 barley loaves and 2 fish “THERE IS A SMALL BOY HERE WITH 5 BARLEY LOAVES AND 2 FISH, BUT WHAT IS THAT BETWEEN SO MANY?” ; Whoever the boy was, he was generous enough to have handed over that small amount of food and with that bread and fish, the Saviour Jesus performed a miracle THE FEEDING OF THE 5.000 ;

Can you imagine the effect that incident had on the young boy? Most likely, for the rest of his earthly life, he told the story of what happened to his 5 loaves and 2 fish ; maybe he told it like this “....A WONDERFUL MAN DID SOMETHING WONDERFUL WITH MY SMALL AMOUNT OF FOOD, WE ALL ATE AND WENT HOME TO OUR VILLAGES, CHANGED, CONVERTED AND WONDERING WHEN WE’D SEE AND HEAR THAT WONDERFUL MAN AGAIN....” What would have happened if the young boy had said “NO!, that’s my food.....clear off”? thankfully that didn’t happen ; And if u noticed, the food that was left over after everyone had eaten didn’t go to waste Jesus said to them “PICK UP THE PIECES LEFT OVER, SO THAT NOTHING GETS WASTED ...”

Now move on to the food situation of 2021! If you listen to poor people, those who find it difficult to make ends meet, their usual 1st struggle is the food bill “we can’t afford to buy the food we need, we have to go to the food bank or go hungry” ; Here in the U.K. over 14 million people live in that type of poverty, it’s a complex issue ; the cost of basic living in a very divided society is causing serious problems. The accumulation of other household bills to be paid leaves only a pittance left over for to put food on the table, and that’s all happening here in the 5th richest country in the world ; would it be that we over-consume and then throw out good produce because of the expiry date? Have we become too spoilt for choice? For example, within a 2 mile radius from right here (our parish church in Isleworth) we have a choice of 5 supermarkets, and dozens of small shops that sell food, so is there a solution to the food inequality? gosh! I wish I had an immediate solution, but I don’t!, as already stated, it’s more than complex!

Perhaps the following suggestion may help in accordance with that instruction from Jesus to the disciples “PICK UP THE PIECES LEFT OVER, SO THAT NOTHING GETS WASTED” ; Why not just purchase what we need as opposed to what we want? you heard it before from up here LIVE SIMPLY SO THAT OTHERS MAY SIMPLY LIVE or WASTE NOT, WANT NOT ; and what you have left over or what you have not spent, donate to a local food bank or financially to a local charity that specializes in reaching families and individuals who are struggling with their daily food bill.And just on that last point, since the beginning of the Pandemic in March of last year, a FOODBANK DONATION project was set up here at st.Bridget’s, with many of you leaving in all sorts of non-perishable food items, childrens clothing, hygiene items etc for the lesser well off in the area ; on a weekly basis these items are sent on to the “Caritas-Food-Collective-Covid-19” ; we would encourage you to continue in your great generosity to the Foodbank Donation Project, “Be encouraged!!” COLLECTIVELY YOUR GENEROSITY SO FAR IS AS GOOD AS THAT YOUNG FELLA WHO HANDED OVER HIS 5 BARLEY LOAVES AND 2 FISH, and look what the Lord did with that generosity

Who knows? hopefully some fine day, local and world hunger will be a thing of the past especially when there’s enough produce globally for everyone’s nutritional needs. p.s.to have clean drinking water for our use is another blessing.....to have a free national health service is another, matter of fact we have so many blessings to enjoy ; look at all that Mother Nature provides for us!!

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