

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

June 22, 2025

Is Jesus still feeding the five thousand? One may ask.

I know that he did long ago. Even as children we were probably amazed by the Gospel story we just heard. Jesus did what? That's unbelievable! And the Miracle of the Feeding of the Five Thousand shows many sides of Jesus. His compassion. His generous heart. His other-worldly power.

And we would have seen none of that in this circumstance had he listened to the Twelve, his inner-circle. They wanted him to dismiss the crowds so they could get for themselves what they needed for the night. Jesus could have agreed with them and told the crowds to go and find their own food. But he didn't. Instead, he told his friends to,

“Give them some food yourselves.”

They didn't see how that was possible. And we know the rest of the story.

Is Jesus STILL feeding the five thousand? It's an important question we need to ask ourselves from time to time. After all, hunger didn't just exist two millennia ago and then disappear. Hardly. As you know, much of the world hungers for food each and every day. But it doesn't stop there. Much of the world also hungers for basic kindness. And understanding. And mercy. And forgiveness. And freedom from judgment. And friendship. And love. Yes, hunger still exists in all its forms. Is Jesus still feeding the five thousand, still filling men and women with every good thing, everything they hunger for?

And if so, how come the whole world isn't “satisfied”?

The “answer” of course, is right in front of us. We just heard it from the mouth of Jesus. If we see hunger around us (in any of its forms) we're not

supposed to simply wash our hands of the whole matter and expect people (or tell them) to go figure it out themselves.

Rather, WE are commanded to feed them, care for them, provide for them, love them. And like the Apostles long ago, maybe we just don't see how that is possible.

I said earlier that we know the rest of the story. But Matthew, Mark, and Luke (not John) include one detail that might be important. You see, this "miracle" of Jesus is not a miracle in which the followers of Jesus just simply "watch" Jesus do something amazing. They actually participate in the miracle. They recognized the need as we are expected to do. They provided what little they had just as we are invited to provide the "little" we have, our flawed, weak, sinful selves.

And after Jesus transforms what looks like not enough into more than enough, he hands it to the Twelve to then hand it to the people, just as every good thing we do originates in the God who has loved us first, and therefore, we are simply channels through which he pours out his abundant love.

Of course, God doesn't have to do it this way. Yet, he chooses to, because he loves us and wants our lives to reflect his, wants us to be his hands and feet, wants us to be the holy, generous, loving creatures he created us to be. What a privilege that is. God asks for our help even though he doesn't need it. Will we?

The idea that each of us is "enough" in his or her own way is not just an important one, it is also a profound one. The five loaves and two fish that often seem to be all WE are and have, are actually a kind of illusion. The truth is, whatever God is asking of us is possible for one reason only; because God will make sure we have enough.

The real question is, will we allow God to "feed" us so we can, in turn, feed the "five thousand", satisfy the hungers of people who are all around us,

people starving for a little kindness and compassion and generosity and love? Or will we continue to send them away, dismiss them to fend for themselves not even necessarily out of malice, but maybe out of apathy, or indifference, or even laziness?

Today, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, we gather to give thanks to Jesus for the gift of his very life, his very self poured out for us and for the whole world, and miraculously present to us in this holiest of meals. And the nourishment we are invited to receive at this table is Jesus himself, a food unlike any other, and a reminder to us of the countless ways God provides for us each and every day.

But make no mistake about it - this holy meal is not simply a moment between ourselves and our Lord and Savior, a private encounter meant for each of us alone. Rather, it is meant to be transformative, a means to become what or whom we eat, a means to become people more configured to Jesus, in how we see the world, how we speak to and about the world, and how we act in the world.

In other words. it's so we can do what Jesus did that incredible day two thousand years ago, do what seems utterly impossible, do what seems completely beyond our ability or understanding, feed more people than we can even imagine. The "miracle" we just heard proclaimed has actually been passed on to us. Imagine that.

So let's be open to the incredible miracle we are about to receive, trusting that God's grace is always enough for what God asks of us. We just have to be ready for each moment he shares with us some good thing, some holy thing, some gift and invites us to pass it along to the crowd. And let's be sure we become what God wants us to become, more like him, more than we were before we came forward and gave our "Amen".

A Short Story

One day a man went to the priest and said that he could not believe that the bread on the altar can be transformed into the body and blood of

Jesus. The priest said that it is really easy. We all eat so much of bread and other materials and they are quickly changed into our flesh and blood. It is a miracle of nature. The man was not convinced. He asked how the huge body of Jesus can be contained in a small host.

The priest took him out and showed him the scenery. He asked him how this entire scene can be contained in a little eyeball and all is visible to him. The man still would not accept it all. He said how one Jesus can be found in every church at the same time.

The priest then brought a small mirror and asked him to look into his own image there. Then he quietly dropped the mirror and it broke into hundred pieces. He then asked the man to look into each piece and asked how he was now seen in hundred pieces and he is still the same. The man was now convinced that Eucharist is truly a miracle and Jesus was found everywhere body and blood.