



Daily Reflections

A SATISFYING, ABUNDANT MEAL FOR FOUR THOUSAND HUNGRY PEOPLE

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Gospel

In those days when there again was a great crowd without anything to eat, Jesus summoned the disciples and said, "My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will collapse on the way, and some of them have come a great distance." His disciples answered him, "Where can anyone get enough bread to satisfy them here in this deserted place?" Still he asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" They replied, "Seven." He ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then, taking the seven loaves he gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to his disciples to distribute, and they distributed them to the crowd. They also had a few fish. He said the blessing over them and ordered them distributed also. They ate and were satisfied. They picked up the fragments left over -- seven baskets. There were about four thousand people. He dismissed the crowd and got into the boat with his disciples and came to the region of

Reflection

Jesus and his followers are still in the Gentile territory of the Decapolis. Here again a large crowd of people who followed them are without anything to eat. (See Mk 6:34-44.) Their need creates a response in Jesus: *“My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, because they have been with me for three days now and have nothing to eat.”* Jesus suggests the possible solution of sending the people home for food, but it’s not practical since he knew that many “have come a great distance.” The disciples are also concerned about where to get food for so many people, especially since they are “in this deserted place.” Jesus now moves to Plan B as he asks his disciples how many loaves *they have with them*. They respond that they have a total of seven loaves of bread. Once again, Jesus works with scarcity to sustain the many (Mk 6:34-44). After ordering the crowd to sit down, he moves into a ritual recognizing the place of bread in people’s lives as he takes the seven loaves, gives thanks, breaks them and gives them to his disciples to distribute to the crowd. There were also a few fish that he blessed and distributed. Notably the crowd ate and all were satisfied. From the approximate 4,000 people, there were seven baskets of leftover food! Divine activity is about abundance, not scarcity.



For Pondering

- What part of this passage speaks to your life?
 - Imagine you and your family and friends among the hungry crowd of 4,000. What would your conversations be about when you returned home or got together the next day?
 - What do you say to your God after reading this passage?
-

For Prayer

Offer your usual "prayer before meals" right now.

Pray it three times slowly.

Let it bless all that nourishes you today.

If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!

Support CSD



Center for
Spiritual
Development

COMPANIONS ON THE
SACRED JOURNEY



[Visit Website](#)

714-744-3172

[Join Mailing
List](#)



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 714-744-3175

[Unsubscribe slongbotham@csjorange.org](mailto:slongbotham@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by thecsd@csjorange.org