

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand Matthew 14.13-21

¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

¹⁵ As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

¹⁶ Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

¹⁷ "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

¹⁸ "Bring them here to me," he said. ¹⁹ And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Paul's Anguish Over Israel Romans 9:1-5

⁹ I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit— ² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, ⁴ the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. ⁵ Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised!^[a] Amen.

This is the outline of the Sermon I will be preaching in the church on Sunday morning. If you are coming to church please don't read it until after the service on Sunday

Many thanks, Peter

Sermon 2/8/2020 reopening of church for services as the pandemic lockdown is slowly being lifted

Introduction

How wonderful it is to be able to meet for worship in our church building. I have missed some aspects of worshiping in church and some aspects I hadn't missed until I came back into the church for a service. The one aspect that hit me when I started to think about being back in this church was candles. It suddenly struck me that the candles represent some of the most important aspects of my faith. The Light of Christ in His world and how we should shine as a light in the darkness for those who need to meet Him, The Gospel, the word of God to us that light to guide our feet as we walk with Jesus, Baptism, that adoption into God's family and all that it promises for those who are His children. The candles are the light at the end of the tunnel, today that tunnel is the fear and constraint of that unseen enemy, Covid 19.

I will light a candle at home more often in the future to help me focus on My God, the one who through His Holy Spirit, has never left me alone through the ups and downs of my life.

The words of Paul in his letter to the Romans echoes loud:

I speak the truth in Christ - I am not lying; my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit. He speaks of his sorrow that his own people do not recognise what Jesus has offered them. the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all.

Have we questioned our faith during the past months? I hope so because questioning helps us remember why we believe. We remember those moments when we felt God so close to us, those moments when we just cannot understand why others don't recognise who Jesus really is. But in the midst of the turmoil and tragedy of the past weeks we have seen moments of kindness, of goodness of God at work in His world through the actions of His children. The response of people to those in need. God works in mysterious ways and when we take the time to look, we see His hand in so much of the compassion and care that we have witnessed.

So, in questioning our faith we come to our Gospel reading. It is one of my favourite passages in the Gospels. Jesus feeds the five thousand. But does it speak to us today?

The disciples were surprised when Jesus told them to share the food with the crowd? They only had five loaves and two fish, so how could they possibly feed so many! Jesus shows us that we must be ready to share whatever we have with others.

Jesus took the food, He blessed it according to the Jewish custom, broke them and gave them out to the disciples to distribute to the crowd.

Today we will do something very similar, we will bless bread and wine, and distribute the bread to the congregation.

In more normal times, just as Jesus fed the thousands that day, so he continues to feed millions today through the power of God's spirit in communion services around the world. This spiritual feeding is felt by many to be a vital part of their diet.

Today we are able back in our church to be part of that tradition once again. But back to the feeding of the 5000.

I would have loved to see the disciples faces as they gave out the loaves and the fish. - They had seen Jesus perform many wonderful miracles, and they believed in him. However, this did not stop them being amazed again and again by the power of Jesus, as he once more proved that he was indeed the Son of God

When we look at a candle flame it should remember Just who Jesus is. Remember how He came to change our lives forever.

In Pauls words; He is the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen

Prayer

Jesus, help us to share whatever we have with others. Help us to not be greedy in any way. As we remember our brothers and sisters in other countries who have little or no food. We pray that the rest of the world will learn to share too, so the world can be a happier place.

Song order Aug 2 2020 worship videos available on YouTube

Opening song Come now is the time to worship

After sermon What A Beautiful Name (Lyric Video) - Hillsong Worship

Offertory The lords my shepherd

Recessional Wonderful Lord