

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

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“And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught. And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. And they departed into a desert place by ship privately. And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him. And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things. And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed: send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat. He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat? He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes. And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass. And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties. And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all. And they did all eat, and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes. And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men.” Mark 6:30-44

I remember the first time I drove a car. My dad and I were in an empty parking lot. My dad had showed me what I needed to know and was sitting in the passengers seat. When I stepped on the gas I pressed way to hard and the car shot forward. I remember panicking and hitting the brakes. To me shooting forward like that was a miracle, even though I ridden in a car a thousand times it was incredible to drive. Now when I get behind the wheel I don't even think about it. It's something I've done a thousand times and is no longer that exciting. The old adage “familiarity breeds contempt” comes to mind. I feel like this phenomenon happens with the miracles of Jesus. When we first here them they are incredible, but after hearing of them a thousand times the shine tends to wear off. We're tempted to not be amazed at the awesome power of God. Jesus fed 5000 men, likely more as there were most likely women and children present. He fed them all from five loaves of bread and 2 fishes.

There's also something incredibly powerful in the way he does it. There's no fanfare, he simply tells the disciples what to do. He hands them food and they pass it out. Here Jesus shows them how their ministry is going to continue, how it continues today even. As Jesus performed the miracle of the feeding of the 5000, he gives the disciples his miraculous life giving word. The same word He has entrusted to us. As he has them pass out the bread, He has all of us pass out His word. This is how the sacraments too. Jesus does the work, we simply pass out the food. The miracles of Jesus give evidence that He is the son of God. I pray that as we continue to live out our lives that God will help us continue to be amazed at the reality of what it means to belong to the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

God's Peace,
Nicholas Kandoll