

9 Pentecost 2020

Year A, August 2, 2020

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Are you hungry? I hope not. I hope that you have enough to eat, because many people in this country and in the world today do not. I bring this up because the gospel for this morning is the Feeding of the more than 5,000 people.

Some of you may remember lean years when food was scarce or rationed, like during the Great Depression. Some of you may personally remember personally lean years where money and maybe even food was

scarce. I have lived through years like that, especially as a child. My mom was hospitalized with a severe illness, I was sickly and my dad worked one full and one part time job to make ends meet so that the five of us could survive. My grandparents provided food for us, and care for us to help ease the burden. It happens.

In the gospel for today, Jesus is looking for some quiet reflective time, following the death of John the Baptist. But Jesus didn't get that time he needed, because the crowds of people sought him out and found him. Jesus goes to the shore, and when he sees the large crowd of people he has compassion.

Jesus doesn't just "have" compassion, but is "moved" with compassion. The Greek word for compassion in this instance, literally means "He was moved in his bowels." (Yes. I said it. Kind of funny when you think about it.) But the bowels were thought by the Greeks to control the emotions. The bowels were where love, pity, mercy and compassion all lived in a person.

Jesus then provides them a meal through the miraculous means of five loaves and two fishes. That miraculous meal is important. But even more important is that Jesus was moved to compassion, to love, to pity, to mercy. Jesus. Our Jesus.

If he's moved to compassion, if he loves, if he has mercy on those around him, what do you think he expects of all of us? What do you think that he expects of you? Do you think he expects you to just go about your business as usual? Or do you think, perhaps that he expects us, expects you and me to go and do likewise? To be moved to compassion by his gospel, by his example, to go out and feed the hungry, clothe the poor, protect the frail, the elderly, the handicapped, the at risk, the children, the lost, the homeless, those in need of justice?

Yes. We all know the answer to that is a resounding YES!

Jesus is our example. The question for each one of us is, how are we each living out our Christian faith? How are you following Jesus?

May you be moved in your bowels to show love, mercy, pity and compassion to those around you. The same love, pity compassion and mercy that Jesus has had for you. Amen.