

Give Them Something to Eat

Sharing food and conversations with one another can be sacramental occasions of knowing and being known, times when friendships are firmly formed. Jesus enjoyed being with people around The Table with good food and drink, so much so he was accused of being a glutton and a winebibber.

I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security . . . More than by fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us, “*Give them something to eat.*” —
Pope Francis

Luke 9:10-17

Vs. 10—We need times to get-a-way and rest

- Daily
- Weekly
- Periodically throughout the year
- Sabbatical—an extended period of rest after several years of serving

Vs. 11—Kingdom of God

- Taught & demonstrated
- Trained the disciples to do the same—**Luke 9:1-2**
- **John 20:21-23**

Vs. 12-13—You give them something to eat

- Every trouble is an opportunity for Jesus to show up with miracle working, problem solving power!
- God rarely answers prayers devoid of human involvement. He works miracles through our hands and by our faith. “*You give them something to eat.*”
- If the task were humanly possible or easy, you would not need God.
- But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “ With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” **Matthew 19:26**
- Jesus said to him, “ If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” **Mark 9:23**
- Give what you have. Do what you can do. Believe God for the rest. This is faith!

Vs. 14-17

- Sit down in groups of 50
- No one ate alone
- The Gospel is utterly, completely communal
- Church forces us out of our isolation.
- **WE DON'T KNOW HOW JESUS MULTIPLIED THE LOAVES AND THE FISH!**

- Some theologians suggest that within the groups of 50 people began to pull out the food that they had stashed away. It was Passover season. That means thousands of pilgrims were on their way to Jerusalem. When it came time for lunch, they were afraid to take out their food because they did not believe they had enough to share. It would be impolite to eat in the presence of those who had no food. People began to share with one another in their groups.
- We do know that a young man with innocence and generosity shared his food. Using this act of generosity Jesus gave thanks and began to distribute the food. What we do know is the food began to miraculously multiply. We don't know how.
- Our job is to share what we have and trust Jesus for the rest!
- There were 12 baskets left over.

Conclusion

- When you see a need, don't be surprised if you hear Jesus say to you, "**You give them something to eat.**"
- Do you have abundance or a scarcity mentality?
- Are you generous or selfish?
- Do you have faith to step out and do what God puts in your heart to do?

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Discussion Guide

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- What does this statement mean to you?
- What kind of church does Pope Francis describe here?

Luke 9:10-13

- In verse 10 why do you believe that Jesus took the disciples out to a deserted place?
- How do you get away? What brings restoration to you?
- In verse 11 Jesus taught the Kingdom of Heaven and healed the sick. These are the actions of God's Kingdom.

Luke 9:1-2

- What instructions did Jesus give his disciples?
- What instructions do you suppose Jesus gives us today?

Luke 9:14-17

- Why did Jesus instruct the people to sit down in groups of 50?
- How did the loaves and fish multiply? How can we explain miracles? Do we really need to find an explanation?

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