

Give Them Something to Eat – the Church

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

Vs. 11—Kingdom of God

- Jesus trained the disciples to do the same ministry He performed — **Luke 9:1-2**

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.*"
- *We are the church. Church is something we do, not something we go to!*
- 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!**
- 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?