

Homily for the Eighteenth Sunday Year A

A poor mother lived in a small village with her only son in a small house. One evening, they had just one loaf of bread left for supper. As they were about to eat, there was a knock at the door. **It was an elderly traveler who had not eaten all day.** Without hesitation, the mother cut the loaf into three pieces and shared it with the stranger. They all ate, and though it was not much, everyone was satisfied.

As the traveler was leaving, he said, "*When we trust God enough to share what little we have, He always provides more than we expect.*"

The next morning, the mother found that her neighbors, who had heard about her kindness, brought her bread, vegetables, and other food. Her simple act of generosity had touched many hearts, and her needs were abundantly met.

In this story, *the widow had only one loaf of bread, yet she trusted God enough to share it. She did not worry about the quantity of how much she had, instead, she generously offered what she had. God blessed her generosity far beyond her expectations.* The same lesson echoes throughout today's first reading and the Gospel. God invites us to trust in His providence rather than in our limited resources.

The first reading from Isaiah extends God's invitation, "***Come to the water... come without money and without price.***" God is reminding us that His love, mercy, and grace are freely given. He alone can satisfy the deepest hunger of the human heart, not only our physical hunger but our hunger for peace, forgiveness, hope, and eternal life.

The Gospel presents one of Jesus' *best-known miracles*: the feeding of the five thousand. This passage begins with a grieving Jesus, who has just learned of the death of "John the Baptist." Having learned of John the Baptist's death. Yet when He saw the large crowd waiting for Him, His compassion was greater than His own sorrow. Instead of turning the people away, He welcomed them, healed the sick, and taught them.

As evening came, the disciples wanted to send the crowd away, but Jesus said, "***You give them something to eat.***" *The disciples saw only their limitation, five loaves and two fish, but Jesus saw an opportunity.* He blessed the little they

offered, broke it, and fed more than five thousand people. **In God's hands, little becomes more than enough.**

In a world where many experience hunger, loneliness, financial hardship, and emotional exhaustion, Jesus continues to say to each one of us, ***“Give them some food yourselves.”*** *This invitation is not only about providing physical nourishment; it is also a call to recognize and respond to the deeper needs of those around us.*

Today, many people hunger for love, acceptance, forgiveness, hope and so many things. They may have food on their tables, yet still feel empty because they lack peace, healthy relationships, or a sense of purpose. As followers of Christ, we are called to become instruments of God's compassion, nourishment, and offering encouragement. A kind word, a listening ear, an act of forgiveness, encouragement to someone who is struggling, or sharing our blessings with those in need can become the ***“five loaves and two fish”*** that God multiplies in another person's life.

Today Jesus invites us to bring whatever little we have and place it in His hands. When offered with love and faith, our small acts of kindness can become great blessings in the lives of others. Let us trust that the Lord who multiplied the loaves and fishes will continue to work through us to nourish a hungry world. May God bless all of us. Amen.