

Sermon for July 14,2024 – The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

In our Gospel Text today, Jesus, is at it again. A few days ago, we heard that He fed five thousand people from five loaves and two fish. Since then, we heard that, Jesus walked on water. He healed the sick in Gennesaret. He taught much, especially about the traditions of man as opposed to the Commandments of God. He taught about what defiles a person and what does not defile a person. He healed a Syrophenician woman's daughter by casting a demon from her from a distance. And Jesus healed a deaf man, even making him speak plainly. The people knew of these things. But, with Jesus enough is never enough, it seems, so He is at it again. Teaching and feeding. Feeding and teaching.

So, it is not surprising that great crowds gathered around him. And in our gospel text from Mark ch. 8, we are told that a great crowd followed him and stayed with him to the point that Jesus knew that they were hungry. They had been with Jesus for three days. He was concerned that they might faint on the way home because of their hunger.

So, Jesus had compassion on the hungry people. Now, when God has compassion on people He does something. Unlike us, He does not just feel sorry for them and go on His merry way. But, God provides for their needs. So, Jesus is at it again as He repeats the previous “bread and fish scene”. Earlier He blessed and multiplied five loaves and two fish to feed five thousand men plus women and children. This time he fed four thousand plus from seven loaves and a few small fish. All were fed until they were satisfied. When the eating was over, where there was previously 12 baskets of leftovers that Jesus and the disciples took with them, this time there were seven baskets full of broken pieces of bread and fish left. Jesus never wastes food or anything from creation. Bread and cold fish were surely choice leftovers in this fishing community and culture. So, Jesus and his disciples ate well from leftovers even after the day of the feast. After the feast Jesus, the disciples, and the leftovers got into boats and headed to the western shore of Galilee..

Nice story, huh? (Jesus was surely an amazing man to follow). His performance of miracles was unlike anything ever seen on earth. He had powers that showed He was truly God. But in all of our reading from Mark, there is one word that stands out. “*I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat.*” From these words we hear from Jesus himself – the God-Man – that He had compassion on the great crowds that followed him. In the Greek, “zplangxnizomai” is translated, I have pity, I feel sympathy, I have compassion – compassion that comes from the gut.

And we might ask the question, Did Jesus as God feel pity or did Jesus as Man feel pity for the great crowds that followed him? And the answer is of course, yes. Jesus had been hungry and He knew what it was like. He was a man who suffered hunger and pain and all human troubles. And Jesus was God who was with God at creation and knew God's creatures, having pity and compassion on them even after they fell into their sinful state of unbelief and separation from him. He had compassion on them even though they followed the devil after the fall into sin. He had compassion on them even though He is

the only true and living God, the God of the living. He had compassion on them even though because of sin His creatures experience death. God's true nature is that He is a merciful, compassionate God.

For you see, the following statement from Paul in Romans 6:23 is most certainly true. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Jesus **as God** and Jesus **as Man** has had compassion on us to the point that He died for us. He took the wages, the payment, the punishment for the sins of the whole world. The wages of sin is death and Jesus – even though He had no sin – took our punishment - received our due wages for sin - and Jesus died our death.

Now, it is like this: If we go to work for someone, after we have worked for whatever is the length of their payroll period – maybe a day or week or two weeks or a month even – after we have worked for a while - they pay us our wages – they pay us what we are due. Since we are all sinners, what does God owe us? He owes us **equal** payment. And that payment is death, the wages of sin is death. God pays us equal wages. We all die. If we are on the devil's payroll we are paid as our wages what the devil himself deserves – eternal death and pain and separation from God. But, since we are God's creatures, we are on God's payroll and receive the currency or wages by faith that our Lord Jesus has earned with His obedience wrought righteousness. We receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

For those of us who believe in God's Son, Jesus, as our Savior, and are baptized, we receive our due wages in Baptism, we die with Jesus in Baptism. And Jesus has already been judged as the guilty one for the sins of the world. He has received our punishment. And more than that He has risen from the dead. He has risen for not just a day or two but for eternity.²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* We who believe and are baptized have been justified before God through faith in Christ, resurrected from the dead for eternal life. And by his resurrection we also live resurrected eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord just as He lives resurrected eternal life.

We live eternal life into eternity – and that includes not just forever but also right now! O Eternal Ones - Live your life now and into eternity in Christ Jesus your Lord. You are invited to feast at the table of the Eternal Man, the God-Man Jesus Christ. Jesus is at it again – teaching and feeding. He provides everything for your salvation including the feeding of your body, soul, and spirit. This is your inheritance from Christ. This is what Christ has left you from His possessions on earth, Himself. He had nothing else to leave you. *The foxes have their dens and the birds of the air have their nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.* He had nothing to leave you but Himself.

This Holy Feast does not consist of wages, something that you are due according to what you deserve. The Holy Feast is your inheritance. You receive His body and His blood by faith in His promise. He is here in Word and Sacrament.

He is at it again. He is teaching. He is feeding. He is at it again. Believe. Eat. Drink. Live forever. Amen.

Bible Study

Jeremiah 31:23-25

Future Prosperity of Judah

²³ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: “They shall again use this speech in the land of Judah and in its cities, when I bring back their captivity: ‘The LORD bless you, O home of justice, *and* mountain of holiness!’
²⁴ And there shall dwell in Judah itself, and in all its cities together, farmers and those going out with flocks. ²⁵ For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul.”

Romans 6:19-23

¹⁹ I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading to more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves of righteousness for holiness.

6:19 *human terms. Image of slavery illustrates the fact that we will serve something or someone. However, the illustration needs to be understood properly, lest we think it burdensome to serve God. See p 101. your natural limitations. The Romans are prone to fall into sin and need to be encouraged to serve God. sanctification. Gk hagioσmos, “holiness.” See “saints,” p 1904. Lives lived in response to the Gospel seek to serve God and others.*

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

6:20 One who serves sin has no desire to serve God and pays little attention to His will.

²¹ What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is* death.

6:21 *what fruit. Rotten results of sinful actions. now ashamed? Only after conversion did the Romans fully recognize the sinfulness of their past lives. end ... death. Unforgiven sin results in death.*

²² But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

6:22 *slaves of God. See p 101. fruit ... sanctification. Lives devoted to sin yield sinful results (v 21); lives devoted to God yield holy results. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us. See p 1902. its end, eternal life. Sanctification does not earn eternal life. Christ won salvation and eternal life; through faith, the Holy Spirit imparts them to us and sanctifies us.*

²³ For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

6:23 *wages of sin. Death is the just punishment for sin. “All preparation for condemnation is by the devil and a person, through sin. In no way does it come from God, who does not want any person to be damned” (SD XI 81). free gift. Nothing can earn God’s grace. He gives it to people who can never deserve it, for Christ’s sake. Chrys: “After speaking of the wages of sin ... he does not say, the wages of good deeds, ‘but the gift of God;’ to show, that it was not of themselves that they were freed, nor was it a due they received, neither yet a return, nor a recompense of labors, but by grace” (NPNF 1 11:417). in Christ Jesus. See note, 8:1.*

6:15–23 Although many people consider freedom to be the ultimate human right, no one is truly free spiritually. We were slaves to sin and bound to death. Knowing this, Jesus came to serve us by giving His life on the cross and rising for us. Freed from sin, we can now serve God. Only when we are “slaves” to God will we have freedom to be the people He created us to be. • My Savior, thank You for serving me. Lead me to serve You and others. Amen.

Mark 8:1-9

8 In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples *to Him* and said to them,

8:1 *In those days. Maintains the tension described in the confrontations and miracles of ch 7.*

²“I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat.

8:2 *compassion. See note, Lk 7:13. with Me ... nothing to eat. Crowds were wildly enthusiastic for Jesus (cf 1:37, 45; 3:9; 6:33, 54–55). They were so eager to stay with Him that they lost track of time and began to ignore basic necessities such as food.*

³ And if I send them away hungry to their own houses, they will faint on the way; for some of them have come from afar.”

8:3 *Jesus already had in mind to feed the hungry multitude; nonetheless, He invited the disciples to reflect on the problem (cf 6:37). Jesus tested them to see whether they would have faith.*

⁴ Then His disciples answered Him, “How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness?”

8:4 *Once again, the disciples failed to recognize Jesus’ true identity and lacked faith in His power. desolate place? See note, Mt 15:33.*

⁵ He asked them, “How many loaves do you have?”

And they said, “Seven.”

⁶ So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, broke *them* and gave *them* to His disciples to set before *them*; and they set *them* before the multitude.

8:6 *took ... given thanks ... broke ... gave. See note, 6:41.*

8:5–6 *Seven. May represent the number of Gentile nations surrounding Israel (see p 345). There were 12 baskets of leftovers collected in 6:43, a number representing Israel. See p 217.*

⁷ They also had a few small fish; and having blessed them, He said to set them also before *them*.

8:7 *In contrast with 6:41, Jesus blessed the fish separately, after the bread had been distributed, thus making a second course that highlighted the bounty of the meal. small fish. Probably roasted until crisp. blessed. See p 842.*

⁸ So they ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets of leftover fragments.

8:8 *satisfied. See notes, 6:42–44; Mt 15:37.*

⁹ Now those who had eaten were about four thousand. And He sent them away, ¹⁰ immediately got into the boat with His disciples, and came to the region of Dalmanutha.

