

A Reading of the Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 15:29-37)

At that time Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, went up on the mountain, and sat down there. Great crowds came to Him, having with them the lame, the blind, the deformed, the mute, and many others. They placed them at his feet, and He cured them. The crowds were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the deformed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind able to see, and they glorified the God of Israel.

Jesus summoned His disciples and said, “My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, for they have been with Me now for three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, for fear they may collapse on the way.” The disciples said to Him, “Where could we ever get enough bread in this deserted place to satisfy such a crowd?” Jesus said to them, “How many loaves do you have?” “Seven,” they replied, “and a few fish.” He ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then He took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied. They picked up the fragments left over—seven baskets full. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ Jesus, the all-round problem-solver

They placed them at his feet, and He cured them. It must have taken g-r-e-a-t efforts and a tremendous amount of faith to carry the lame, the deformed, and lead the blind and the mute up the mountain amidst a big crowd of people to Jesus. Jesus healed them all without questions. Whenever there is faith, Jesus responds with appropriate action. What Jesus requires is simply faith and trust in Him. My trials and problems are given to me to provide opportunities to grow in my faith and trust in God. What really matters to Jesus is not so much the state of my situation but how I respond to the situation. Jesus can will any situation in my life but **how I respond to each situation is in my own hands**. I have complete control over that. I can opt to be distressed and let anxieties overcome me or I could trust in Him and put all my problems at His feet in great faith in His love and mercy. In Jesus is found the solution to ALL my problems provided I have the faith and trust in Him to place them all at His feet and await His response with peace of mind. Worry is an indication of my mistrust in Him. Jesus is faithful and will never fail those who really trust in Him.

How many loaves do you have? Jesus could have simply produced all the needed food from nothing, out of the air. However, it is the ardent desire of Jesus to have me partake of His saving actions, His Mission, His Ministry. I am in His plan of salvation to do my unique part for which He has endowed me with unique gifts and talents. For example, He needs my help in praying for the salvation of all my loved ones – my family members, relatives and friends and even those who merely crossed my paths but who made an impression on my mind. He needs my words gently telling them the Good News when their hearts are ready. In the meantime, He needs me to witness to Christ’s unconditional love by my loving actions and concern for them.

Transformation in His Hands. Just as the loaves and fish were transformed in His hands, so too shall I be when I totally surrender my whole life, my entire self, my dreams, aspirations, my will, pains and joys into the hands of Jesus. His life becomes my life. His concerns become my concerns. Whatever inadequacies I have or imagine I have: lack of qualifications, lack of experience, fears, etc. will be transformed and I will be equipped to serve Him in carrying out whatever plan He has crafted for me just as in the same way the few loaves and fishes are transformed to feed thousands of people. It is through weak instruments that the glory of God shines brightly for it is in weaknesses that the power of God is made manifest. Do I have fears? Let me put my fears in the hands of the Lord and ask Him to transform it into holy boldness so that I can share His love with those among my loved ones who do not believe in Him. Do I agonise over my weaknesses? Let me put my weaknesses into His hands and ask Him to give me strength to seek His will always. Am I overwhelmed by life anxieties? Let me put all my anxieties into the hands of my Lord and ask Him to turn it into deep trust in His love, mercy and providence. If I truly trust God, God’s Providence will allow my ‘basket’ to overflow so that I will have more than I need. *They picked up the fragments left over – seven baskets full.*

Conversation with Our Lord

Precious Lord, I come before You and I bless You with all my heart. You are always full of love and concern for others. You are waiting for me to come and place all my cares, worries and problems at Your feet. Lord, recreate my heart to strengthen my love, faith and trust in You. Let me always remember You are the solution to ALL my problems. Transform me O Lord as You have transformed the bread and fish. Touch my heart, touch my spirit. Speak Your Word of Love and Purpose to me so that Your life will become my life, Your Will my will. Mother Mary, please intercede for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.

For nothing is impossible with God (Luke 1:37)