

Sermon Guide for Sunday, May 2, 2021

Jesus' Feeding of the 5000

This miracle story is popular in the Gospels, repeated in each of the four Gospels, even two times in Matthew and Mark. And... if something is repeated, it must be IMPORTANT!

I think it is interesting to contrast and compare stories/events that happen in more than one Gospel. See what similarities and differences you can find.

Matthew 14:13-21

Mark 6:30-44

Luke 9:10-17

John 6:1-13

Then check out:

Matthew 15:32-39

Mark 8:1-10

Rector Jason Cox (who inspired today's sermon) says this miracle story is really a parable for how we are to live our lives as a disciple of Jesus. When Jesus says to his disciples, "You give them something to eat," he is giving us our marching orders, too.

God has given us all the resources of this earth – all of the earth’s resources are at our disposal. How are we going to use them to meet the needs of all of God’s children?

Take, bless, break, give. That’s what Jesus did with the bread and the fish in today’s story. That is his practice every time he has a meal with people throughout his ministry. Cox reminds us that is what Jesus did with his life, too. And... that’s how we are called to live our lives as well. Take our lives, bless them by giving them to God, break them open so that we are vulnerable and open to the needs of others, and then give our lives in service to those who need us.

How does that sound to you? What excites you? Scares you?

Today we celebrate a very special meal – the sacrament of Holy Communion – which calls to mind Jesus’ last meal with his disciples prior to his arrest, crucifixion, and death. Note how we are reminded, once again, that Jesus took the bread, blessed it, broke the bread, and then gave it to his disciples.