



## A Reflection for Eighth Sunday after Trinity Readings - Romans 9. 1-5 & Matthew 14. 13-21

The teachings and miracles of Jesus speak to every generation as humanity continues to ask existential questions. Why are we here? Is there a God? What is the point of existence?

What about a global pandemic? What possible relevance does the miracle of the feeding of the 5000 have when we are living in these times?

*When Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.*

Jesus feeds over 5000 people from the resources that God has already provided. Namely, fish and bread. In this miracle God shares out of an abundance to feed those who were hungry as they listened to the life giving words spoken by Jesus.

Jesus demonstrated with this miracle a new paradigm. For in The Kingdom of God there is no hierarchy or distinction. It did not matter who you were at the miracle. The only requirement asked by Jesus was to create order as you were asked to be seated on the ground. Jesus then gave thanks for what God had already brought forth from creation and all were fed.

Is it not time that we consider a new paradigm as we look differently at society because of Covid. The recognition of key workers has been long overdue. Those who have put themselves at great risk in order for the majority to be able to continue to purchase groceries, our bread and fish.

For all had what they needed when they sat on that day and listened to Jesus. Let us in whatever way we can consider the society we now expect. It is in our hands to move forward as we learn from the life, teachings and miracles of Jesus. And as we learn to adapt to living with a global pandemic.

Jesus demonstrated in the miracle of the feeding of the 5000 that all are welcome in the Kingdom of God. How does this impact upon our society?

Thank you for reading and please keep safe.

The Reverend Nick Devenish

*Adrian's music choices for Trinity Eight - Hymn: 455 Guide me O thou great redeemer.  
Psalm: 80. Voluntary: Toccata - Georgi Mushel.*

*If you are able, join me for a service of holy communion from The Priory.  
Live streaming from 10.45am. Please go to the Cartmel Priory Facebook page.*

*Image - The five thousand by Eularia Clarke*