

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YRB

July 25, 2009

QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
Rev. Jeff McGowan

1ST READING: 2 KINGS 4:42-44

Elisha said, "Give it to the people to eat." His servant objected, "But how can I set this before a hundred people?" Elisha insisted, "Give it to the people to eat. For thus says the Lord, 'They shall eat and there shall be some left over.'"

PSALM 145

The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

2ND READING: EPHESIANS 4:1-6

Brothers and sisters: I a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love.

GOSPEL: JOHN 6:1-15

"Two hundred days wages worth of food would not be enough."

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Do you remember last week's gospel? The people saw Jesus and his disciples get into the boat and closed their businesses, took their families and ran barefoot or in sandals across the rocky hillsides and through the thorn bushes to get to the place Jesus and his disciples landed before he did. They were driven by a hunger for God and forgot all about their physical needs. They are looking for a prophet, they hunger for God's word, they demand more than the ordinary life is able to offer them.

So, they find Jesus. And as they encounter him they realize their human need to eat. Then the man who they ran to only expecting receive the Good News perceived their dilemma and also fed them. But something strange happened, when Jesus filled their stomachs they became greedy. They forgot they ran into the wilderness because they realized their lives were empty. They were greedy.

Greed comes in many forms: Greed for approval; Greed for applause: Greed for affirmation: Greed for status. Then there is greed for fanciest car and greed for the biggest house and greed for the prettiest date. And of course there

is greed for the capital gains. Greed has many faces, but speaks one language: the language of more. Greed has a growling stomach. Feed it, and you risk more than budget-busting debt. You risk losing purpose.

Jesus healed the sick, made the blind see and the lame walk, drove the demons of the day out of the possessed, fed them with plenty and was the answer to all their prayers but he was not enough for them. So, Jesus, who offered them meaning and purpose and direction for their lives, withdrew from them. The Light came into the world but the people preferred darkness. They rejected the “Gospel of Plenty” and embraced the “Gospel of More.” Epicurus noted, “Nothing is enough for the man to whom enough is too little.”

A business man went to the gym during his lunch hour and bought popcorn from a street vender every day on his way back to the office. One day he arrived and the vender was closing up. The business man asked why he was closing early. The vender said, “I already made enough money for today, so I am going home and sit on the porch and drink tea with my wife.” The businessman said, “Oh no, man, you got it all wrong. You need to stay open so you can make more money. Then you can buy more pop corn making machines and put them in more places and let other people work for you. That’s how you become rich.” And the man said, “So, then what would I do?” The businessman said, “Well, if you were rich you could sit on your porch and drink tea with your wife.” The Vender said, “I can do that now, so I guess I am rich enough. I am going home to my wife.”

What are you looking for? Are you looking for the Gospel of Plenty or the Gospel of More? Are you looking for Jesus Christ, a meaningful life, true happiness or are you looking for stuff thieves can steal and moths can eat? I believe you are here because you already know the answer and that’s good news!!