

**THIS WEEKEND,,, WE CELEBRATE: *THE SOLMNNITY OF;
“CORPUS CHRISTI”*,,, OR,,, IN OTHER WORDS,,,
*THE FEAST OF; THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF
CHRIST*,,, AND WE JOYFULLY GATHER TOGETHER,,, TO
COMMEMORATE,,,
*THE INSTITUTION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST,,,
JESUS BODY AND BLOOD!***

**ON THE NIGHT BEFORE JESUS SUFFERED AND DIED.
IN OUR SCRIPTURE,,, LUKE TELLS US,,, THAT JESUS
WAS IN HIS “*YEAR OF POPULARITY*”.**

**HIS FAME HAD PRECEDED HIM AND MANY TRIED TO
FIND HIM,,, TO HEAL THEIR ILLNESSES.**

**BUT BEFORE THIS,,, WE READ THAT JESUS HAD SENT
OUT HIS DISCIPLES,,, TO PREACH THE KINGDOM OF
GOD,,, AND ALSO,,, FOR THEM TO HEAL THE SICK.**

**WHEN THE DISCIPLES RETURNED,,, JESUS TOOK
THEM TO A PRIVATE PLACE,,, OUT IN THE DESERT,,,
SO HE COULD BE ALONE WITH THEM,,, SO HE COULD
TALK TO THEM AND TO HEAR THEIR REPORTS.**

**BUT WORD GOT OUT,,, REGARDING WHERE JESUS
AND HIS DISCIPLES WERE! SOON,,,**

***A CROWD GATHERED AROUND THEM,,, AND EVEN
THOUGH JESUS WANTED TO BE ALONE WITH HIS
DISCIPLES,,, FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE,,, AND HE
COULD HAVE TURNED THEM AWAY,,, HE DIDN'T!
INSTEAD,,, HE TOOK THE TIME,,, TO WELCOME AND
HEAL THEM.***

**JESUS HAD BEEN MINISTERING ALL DAY. IT WAS
GETTING LATE,,, AND VERY CLOSE TO SUPPER TIME.
NOTICING THAT THE CROWD DIDN'T HAVE ANY FOOD
WITH THEM,,, THE DISCIPLES ASKED JESUS TO SEND
THE CROWD AWAY,,, TO THE NEARBY VILLAGE TO
GET SOME FOOD FOR THEIR SUPPER,,, BECAUSE
“*THEY WERE HERE,,, IN A DESERTED PLACE*” WITH
VERY LITTLE FOOD EVEN FOR THEMSELVES.**

THEN,, *JESUS DID SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.*
HE SAID; “*GIVE THEM SOME FOOD YOURSELVES!*”

NOW,, THE DISCIPLES WERE PROBABLY THINKING
*ISN'T THAT SOMETHING? GIVE THEM SOME FOOD
OURSELVES,, ALL WE HAVE IS 5 LOAVES AND 3 FISH!*

THE DISCIPLES WERE THINKING IN **MATERIAL**
TERMS,, WHEN JESUS WAS THINKING IN **SPIRITUAL**
TERMS. BROTHERS AND SISTERS,, OUR THINKING
SHOULDN'T BE WHAT **WE** CAN DO,,

RATHER,, WHAT **HE** CAN DO.

NOW,, THOSE 5 LOAVES AND 3 FISH,, COULDN'T HAVE
BEEN VERY BIG,, BECAUSE THEY CAME FROM THE
LUNCH BASKET OF A YOUNG BOY. THE BREAD
LOAVES,, WERE ABOUT THE SIZE OF TODAY'S DINNER
ROLLS,, AND THE FISH,, WELL,, THEY WERE JUST
ABOUT THE SIZE OF SARDINES.

JESUS,, KNOWING THEIR THOUGHTS,, INSTRUCTED
THE DISCIPLES TO HAVE THE CROWD SIT DOWN IN
COMPANIES OF 50 MEN EACH. SO THERE WERE 100
COMPANIES OF 50 MEN EACH. HE DID THIS BECAUSE
IT WAS EASIER TO FEED 50 AT A TIME,, THAN HAVING
5,000 MEN,, TRY TO EAT ALL AT ONCE,, WHICH
OTHERWISE,, COULD HAVE RESULTED IN CHAOS!

WE NEED ALSO TO REMEMBER THAT THERE WERE
OTHERS THERE,, THAT DAY AND THEY ALSO WANTED
TO EAT. THERE WERE AN ESTIMATED 5,000 TO 10,000
WOMEN AND CHILDREN PRESENT ALONG WITH THE
MEN,, BUT THEY WEREN'T RECORDED,, BECAUSE
SOCIETY DIDN'T COUNT WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN
THOSE DAYS.

JESUS TOOK THE 5 LOAVES AND THE 3 FISH IN HIS
HANDS (*YOU SEE,, IN THEIR HANDS,, THE BREAD AND
FISH WERE NOTHING,, BUT IN JESUS' HANDS,, THEY
WERE EVERYTHING*).

THEN,, LOOKING UP TO HEAVEN,, HE BLESSED
THEM,, BROKE THEM,, AND GAVE THEM TO HIS
DISCIPLES TO SET BEFORE THE MULTITUDE.

SCRIPTURE SAYS THAT; *THEY ATE,,, AND THEY WERE ALL SATISFIED!* THIS IS IMPORTANT,,, BECAUSE

“THAT WHICH THE LORD PROVIDES,,, ALWAYS SATISFIES!”

WHAT A MIRACLE? NOT ONLY DID JESUS PROVIDE HEALING FOR THEIR BODIES,,, BUT,,, HE PROVIDED NOURISHMENT FOR THEIR BODIES,,, AS WELL.

FROM THOSE 5 SMALL LOAVES AND 3 SMALL FISH,,, THERE WERE **“LEFTOVERS”**.

AFTER THE MEAL,,, SCRIPTURE SAYS; THAT THEY COLLECTED ENOUGH LEFTOVER FRAGMENTS,,, TO FILL 12 BASKETS. WHAT MAN DOES,,, “SUBTRACTS”,,, WHAT GOD DOES,,, “MULTIPLIES”!

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS,,, I’VE BEEN ASKED THIS QUESTION A FEW TIMES,,,

“WHERE DID THOSE BASKETS COME FROM?”

(*) **DID THEY JUST APPEAR OUT OF NOWHERE?**

(*) **DID THEY JUST HAPPEN TO BE SITTING OUT THERE IN THE DESERT?**

NOW,,, WE COULD ACCOUNT FOR,,, PROBABLY ONE BASKET,,, BECAUSE THE LITTLE BOY,,, PROBABLY NEEDED TO HAVE ONE,,, TO CARRY HIS LUNCH,,, BUT,,, WHERE DID THE OTHER 11 COME FROM?

THE TRUTH IS,,, THAT WE DON’T REALLY KNOW AND I DON’T SUPPOSE THAT ANYBODY DOES!

BUT,,, WHEREVER THEY DID COME FROM,,, THEY CAME EMPTY AND THEY LEFT FULL!

THAT BEING SAID,,, HOW MANY TIMES,,, HAVE WE; COME TO CHURCH **EMPTY AND LEFT EMPTY?**

(*) **WE LEFT UNSATISFIED!**

(*) **WE LEFT UNFILLED!**

(*) **WE DIDN’T RECEIVE ANYTHING FROM THE LORD!**

(*) **SOMEBODY ELSE GOT BLESSED,,, BUT WE DIDN’T!**

(*) **SOMEBODY ELSE GOT HEALED,,, BUT WE DIDN’T!**

WHY? PERHAPS,,, IT’S BECAUSE,,, WE DIDN’T BRING ANYTHING,,, TO RECEIVE ANYTHING IN!!!!

THAT'S LIKE SAYING: "*I'M GOING FISHING,, AND I'M GOING TO BRING A HUGE BASKET OF FISH HOME,, BUT WE COULDN'T,, BECAUSE WE DIDN'T TAKE A BASKET WITH US*". **WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?**

HOW OFTEN,, HAVE PEOPLE COME TO CHURCH *JUST TO COME TO CHURCH*,, OR *PERHAPS EVEN*,, TO JUST FULFILL AN "**OBLIGATION**" ,, BUT NEVER REALLY EXPECTING ANYTHING FROM THE LORD?

REMEMBER THE LITTLE BOY WITH THE LUNCH BASKET? HE HAD HIS BASKET,, AND HE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TO GIVE,, BUT,, HIS BASKET HAD SOMETHING IN IT,, THAT HE WAS ABLE TO GIVE TO THE LORD,, AND HIS GIFT WAS MIRACULOUSLY MULTIPLIED,, TIME AND AGAIN.

I'M A FIRM BELIEVER,, THAT YOU'LL GET SOMETHING OUT OF EVERY SERVICE THAT YOU EVER ATTEND,, IF YOU WILLINGLY BRING SOMETHING WITH YOU,, TO GIVE TO THE LORD.

THAT LITTLE BOY,, DIDN'T HAVE MUCH,, BUT,, HE BROUGHT WHAT HE HAD,, AND HE WILLINGLY GAVE IT TO THE LORD!

SO,, WHAT DID WE BRING TO CHURCH TODAY?
FOLLOWING THE LITTLE BOYS EXAMPLE,, LET'S USE BASKETS AS AN EXAMPLE:

(*) HOW ABOUT A "**BASKET OF SERVICE**"?

THAT YOUNG BOY,, COULD HAVE HOARDED HIS LUNCH,, HE COULD HAVE BEEN SELFISH,, HE COULD HAVE REFUSED TO SHARE!

BUT HE DIDN'T! HE WILLINGLY GAVE *ALL HE HAD*.

(*) HOW ABOUT A "**BASKET OF WORSHIP**"?

SCRIPTURE SAYS; JESUS WENT TO MARY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE IN BETHANY FOR DINNER. MARY TOOK SOME EXPENSIVE OINTMENT AND WASHED JESUS' FEET WITH IT,, THEN DRIED HIS FEET WITH HER HAIR. MARY DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT,, BUT SHE CHOSE TO WORSHIP THE LORD,, AT HIS FEET.

(*) WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME,,, YOU BROUGHT SOMETHING,,, TO POUR OUT,,, TO THE LORD?

(*) WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU GAVE OF YOURSELF IN WORSHIP TO HIM? LIKE COMING TO

QUIETLY PRAY? ATTENDING BIBLE STUDY CLASS? OR,,, VOLUNTEERING TO SERVE AT THE ALTAR?

(*) WHAT ABOUT A “**BASKET OF PRAISE**”?

WHEN YOU RAISE YOUR HANDS IN PRAISE,,, DO YOU RAISE THEM HIGH?

WHEN WE SAY OUR PRAYERS TOGETHER,,, DO YOU RAISE YOUR VOICE,,, IN PRAISE TO THE LORD?

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, WE LIVE IN A SELFISH WORLD! A WORLD OF DESIRE AND WANT! BUT SOMETIMES,,, DON'T WE FORGET TO GIVE!

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT MATERIAL STUFF,,, BUT,,, GIVING OF OURSELVES,,, OUR TIME,,, TO THE LORD!

IF YOU'LL BRING YOUR **BASKETS OF SERVICE,,, WORSHIP AND PRAISE** TO CHURCH ALONG WITH YOU,,, YOU'LL DISCOVER FOR YOURSELF,,, THAT

GOD WILL DO SOMETHING,,, WONDERFUL,,, WITH WHAT YOU DO BRING.

SO,,, BRING YOUR BASKETS,,, TO THE HOUSE OF GOD,,, WITH SOMETHING TO POUR OUT,,, SO THEY CAN BE MULTIPLIED BY THE LORD!

AND REMEMBER,,, MY BELOVED BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,,, “***GAVE US EVERYTHING HE HAD***” HE “***EMPTIED HIMSELF COMPLETELY***” HE ***GAVE US HIS ALL***”,,,

SO WE COULD “**RECEIVE EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING**”,,, ***THROUGH HIS MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD,,, IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST***,,, THAT WE WILL PARTAKE OF TOGETHER,,, IN A FEW MINUTES!

I BLESS YOU ALL,,, THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

+++ AMEN+++

(1,276) WDS,,, 5 PGS)