# “Have Faith in God”

Last Sunday we heard about how the crowd wanted to make Jesus their king. They wanted to make Jesus their king so He could always take care of their humanly needs. However, Jesus wanted them to look beyond the miracle. He wanted them to look beyond the surface. He wanted them to know that the miracle was a sign that points to the most precious pearl that could ever exist. He wanted them to have faith in Him, trust in Him, or more precisely to believe in Him.

In the Middle East, faith, belief, fidelity, and faithfulness describe the social glue that binds one person to another. These terms are emotionally rooted values so that when we belief, we will have loyalty, commitment, and solidarity which John alludes to in our Gospel; these are words that come from the heart.

Those who were born before the 60s, would remember Walter Cronkite an American broadcast journalist, best known as anchorman for the CBS Evening News form 1962–81. After an opinion poll, he was cited as ***"the most trusted man in America.”*** Some of the events I am going to mention will sound familiar to many of us.

Walter reported many events including bombings in World War II, the Vietnam War, Watergate, and the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy. He was also known for his extensive coverage of the U.S. space program, such as Project Mercury, the Moon landings, and the Space Shuttle. Cronkite is well known for his catchphrase at the end of each broadcast ***"And that's the way it is."*** Jesus’ catchphrase is more profound than that of Walter Cronkite, Jesus’ catchphrase is **“I am the way and the truth and the life”** (john 14:6) to your happiness now and forever.

In today’s Gospel, people came looking for Jesus for the wrong reasons. They did not want to miss out if He was going to provide them with another free meal. Jesus knew that and told them instead, to work for food that will last for eternity. He tried to move their minds from seeking perishable food to seeking “**for the food that endures for eternal life”**.

Jesus is not being impractical when he tells us not to work for perishable food! His message to us is, this world is not all there is or that we should worry about. He is more practical by telling us to look to the future, not just in this life but also to our eternal future. Jesus is telling us: “**For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”** (Matt. 6:21).

Jesus is telling us that wherever our treasure is, determines when we get out of bed in the morning, how we spend our evenings, how we spend our weekends, what we read, and who we associate with. Ultimately, wherever our treasure is, determines if we fall in love with the world or fall madly in love with God.

Jesus says when we believe in Him and do things in His name, among other things, we will take care of the homeless, feed the hungry, cloth the naked, visit the imprisoned, and welcome the stranger. Invariably, Jesus is asking us to die to self, He is asking us to go beyond our own wants, in other to help those who cannot help themselves because when we do all these to our neighbor, we do them to Him. These are things that pleases God.

Jesus is leading His disciples from a wonderful human picnic and a fulfillment of their human needs to another form of a wedding feast, a feast of intimacy and communion with Him, but they must have faith in Him.

Lack of faith in God is what happened to their ancestors in the desert in our first reading where they murmured about lack of food. They did not trust that God who brought them out of slavery would also take care of their physical needs but first, He wanted them to have the Spiritual food by believing in Him.

As we come to the table of the Lord, let us resolve in our hearts to always treat Him with the utmost reverence as we partake of the Bread of life.