



July 29, 2018 John 6: 1-21 & 2 Kgs. 4: 42-44

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

Morton Kelsey tells us; "In approaching either a parable or an actual event, the secret is to become silent and concentrate on the picture or scene that is presented until it comes to life and begins to move."

Pick out one person in this story and stay with them until "it comes to life and begins to move". What happened?

Did your quiet time with this gospel enlarge your understanding of God, and God's love for you? How?

John 6:1-21 1 sometime after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberius), 2 and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the **miraculous signs** he had performed on the sick. 3 Then Jesus went up on a **mountainside** and sat down with his disciples. 4 The Jewish **Passover** Feast was near. 5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to **Philip**, "Where shall we **buy bread** for these people to eat?" 6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. 7 **Philip** answered him, "**Eight months' wages** would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" 8 Another of his disciples, **Andrew**, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9 here is a boy with **five** small **barley loaves** and two small **fish**, but how far will they go among so many?" 10 Jesus said, "Have the people **sit down**." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about **five** thousand of them. 11 Jesus then took the **loaves**, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the **fish**. 12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are **left over**. Let nothing be wasted." 13 So they gathered them and filled **twelve baskets** with the pieces of the **five barley loaves** left over by those who had eaten. 14 After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the **Prophet** who is to come into the world." 15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him **king** by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

(The revised common lectionary adds these verses)

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, 17 where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for **Capernaum**. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. 18 A **strong wind** was blowing and the waters grew rough. 19 When they had rowed three or **three and a half** miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified. 20 But he said to them, "It is I; don't be **afraid**." 21 Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the **shore** where they were heading.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Jesus uses whatever is at hand to provide for the people. Have you ever been put in the situation where you had to use whatever you had to fill a giant need?

PRAYER: Trusting Jesus, you once again find yourself surrounded by great need and few apparent resources. So often this is the way I feel when I listen to the news or wonder what I might be able to contribute to the needs that surround me. Help me as I learn to use whatever I have to lessen those unmet needs trusting that you will multiply my small basket of 'loaves and fishes'. Amen.