

Bible Study for Sunday July 25, 2021

Our texts for this Sunday are:

- John 6:1-14
- Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-14

6After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. 2A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. 3Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. 4Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. 5When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" 6He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. 7Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." 8One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 9"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" 10Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. 11Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. 12When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." 13So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. 14When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

The feeding of the 5,000 is one of only three events recorded in all four Gospels (the others are Jesus' Baptism and His Death and Resurrection). What does this tell you about it? Why is it so important? Does anything stand out to you this time reading it through?

John records that the people followed Jesus because they saw His powerful miracles. How was this both a good thing and a bad thing?

If Jesus already knew how He was going to provide food for this large crowd why did He question Philip about this matter?

Compare Philip's and Andrew's response to Jesus' question. What does Philip's response sound like (negative, optimistic, naïve, frustrated....something else)? What does Andrew's sound like? Is it different than Philip's?

Think about a time when you struggled with a problem that had to be solved but you were initially at a loss for a solution. What was the experience like and what did you learn? What was the outcome? Did your perspective at the time (like Philip's vs Andrew's) influence how you saw the situation?

As a rule, what is your first reaction when you experience fear, pain, stress, or trouble? Do you find it easy or hard to turn to God in the midst of your situation?

Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

What do you think it means for you to be rooted and grounded in love? And why might it be important to be rooted, and grounded in love?

Who is *doing* the rooting and grounding here and who is that action being *done to*?

Does being strengthened in your inner being show on your outer being? Should it? What might that look like?

What does verse 20 mean? Read it again slowly, what implications does it have for all Christ followers?

How might a deeper understanding of what Paul is praying for the followers of Christ (us) impact how we might respond to a situation similar to our Gospel text?