

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time - Year B

You know what I love about this story? LEFTOVERS

I love leftovers – and I love it that when Jesus provides the food – there are leftovers

My sister's family doesn't eat leftovers – if it's not eaten they toss it.

I can remember being there for steak dinner – you want to bring this home for the dog?

What do you think I ate the next night? Steak!

When Jesus multiplies the loaves and fishes – 12 baskets of leftovers.

Often – when God meets our needs, God blesses us with much more than we need

What do we do with the leftovers?

Some of us may have only a little

Some of us may have a lot

Either way, God is pleased when we share what we have – not just our stuff

Our faith as well.

Three things are multiplied because of this miracle

1. Multiplies Bread 2. Fish 3. Multiplies Faith

Now let's look at the players in this story **and how Jesus multiplies their faith:**

**First**, the disciples – Jesus asks them to do what seems impossible. We're going to eat here.

Sometimes Jesus tells us to do the impossible so that we'll rely on Him

Remember Peter walking on water – sounded impossible

Did he step out in faith- yup

Did he do it – yup

Did he do it without looking to Jesus – nope

Often God creates a crisis in *our* lives so we'll rely on him

▪ **All things are possible with God – even the impossible**

**But you gotta stay focused on JESUS**

**Second**, the boy – he didn't have much, but what he had he was willing to share

*And when he let Jesus use the little he had – Jesus fed 5,000*

Jesus tells us to bring what we have

Jesus knows where we are, He knows our gifts and talents

*All he asks is that we bring what we have and He will use it.*

Are we holding back, because what talents we have seems too small?

▪ **All things are possible with God – even the impossible**

**But you gotta stay focused on JESUS**

**Third**, the crowd – Last week - Jesus surrounded by the crowds

▪ Moved with pity – Sheep without a Shepherd

▪ HE TAUGHT THEM

This week – Jesus sees the crowds

▪ Moved with pity

▪ HE FEEDS THEM

And – this sign results in an awareness that Jesus was the one who is to come

*Throughout all Israel!!*

- All 3 groups grew in faith from this – but it doesn't stop here – 2000 years later people are still hearing the story AND STILL GROWING IN FAITH.
  - Are you a disciple – being put in an impossible situation like feeding 5000 with no food?
  - Are you the boy – being asked to surrender, and let God use what little you have?
  - Are you the crowd – coming to know JC as messiah through the breaking of the bread?
  - Jesus calls us each to come closer to Him in faith:
    - To trust Him in impossible situations - To surrender to Him - & recognize Jesus is Lord