



March 1 – Bread

Ohhhh, the smell of warm bread! You can smell it now, can't you? Bread – every culture has bread in some shape or form; it literally is a part of life around the world. Is it any wonder that something that feeds people globally is also something Jesus calls himself? Join us this weekend as we give thanks for the Bread of Life, while also asking ourselves what if I don't have much to give? Can I still be bread of life in others' eyes? Come and see what Jesus says!

Scripture:

Ephesians 3:14-21 NLT

When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, ¹⁵the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. ¹⁶I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. ²⁰Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or imagine. ²¹Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

John 6:1-13 NLT

After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. ²A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick. ³Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. ⁴(It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) ⁵Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" ⁶He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money^[a] to feed them!" ⁸Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. ⁹"There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?" ¹⁰"Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So, they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. ¹²After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, "Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted." ¹³So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

Questions:

- When have you been responsible for feeding others? What was that like? What are some meals that are memorable for you and what made them so?
- Do you find it hard to believe that God will provide? Why or why not?
- What are your five loaves of bread and two fish? What gifts are you called to offer to Jesus right now?

Reading for the Week:

Monday: Mark 12:43-44

Tuesday: Matthew 6:21

Wednesday: Luke 6:38

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 13:3

Friday: Proverbs 11:24-25