

GIVE THEM SOME FOOD YOURSELVES ...

We conclude the section on the parables of Jesus, presented by the evangelist St Matthew, and delve into the miracles performed by Christ during his public ministry, his service to extend the Kingdom of God.

The readings for this Sunday first highlight God's compassion. In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah invites us to draw near to God and satisfy our hunger and thirst for eternity.

Meanwhile, the Gospel presents Jesus, who feels compassion for the crowds that follows him, seeking both material and spiritual nourishment.

Jesus notices a need in this multitude: a long time has passed, and they have eaten nothing. Jesus' compassion leads him to seek a solution.

Therefore, in his dialogue with his disciples, he invites them to experience this same compassion in order to provide a solution.

At first, the disciples were concerned, but they didn't offer a solution; perhaps the simplest thing would be to send the crowd away so they could find food for themselves. But that's not what the Master wanted. Jesus invited them to take responsibility for the needs of others.

And so he told them: " GIVE THEM SOME FOOD YOURSELVES..." Before the astonished gaze of his disciples, they replied, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish." Jesus said, "Bring them here to me."

Many theologians and scholars of the Word of God find in this multiplication of the loaves a foreshadowing of the Eucharist, where we are all invited to receive the true food that will satisfy us, including those who are not present.

From all of the above, we can understand that receiving the food of the Eucharist commits us, leads us to discover the needs of others, and at the same time, takes the step of commitment, seeking a solution.

No matter how limited our strength or resources may be, just like in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus helps us recognize the importance of small things. Jesus will act in our lives, but He needs our cooperation.

Today, in the world, we have abundant opportunities to apply these teachings of Jesus.

In an individualistic world that often closes its eyes to the needs of others, we Catholic Christians are invited by Jesus to see beyond the surface and find solutions.

Our goal is to cultivate a compassionate heart that, with empathy, seeks the good of others.

May Our Lady of Heaven, Mother of Love, grant us this blessing. Amen.