

St James Thought for the day - Friday 24th April 2020

God multiplies the gift

- Revd Kit Gunasekera

Dear Friends,

In the familiar story, Jesus feeds the 5000, found in John 6:1-15, we see how a little boy's packed lunch, was used by Jesus, to feed so many! Humanly speaking, five loaves and two fishes, in the face of the great need in front of them, might have seem like an absurd offering, a laughable irrelevance. In the bible, Sara laughed when God promised Abraham and her a son, in their very old age. What makes us laugh in disbelief, is the stuff, which God works through.

Are we withholding the acts of kindness, prayer, thoughtfulness and generosity, which can lift another person's day, because we think its too small an offering in the midst of such a huge situation? Do we say like Andrew, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

We have seen, small acts of kindness powerfully make a difference in this present crisis.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,...Ephesians 3:20

Like the little boy, and of course within the current restrictions, may we offer what we have, to God in prayer, and use it to serve others, and He will take it, give thanks for it, multiply it, and bring joy that we cannot imagine.

Song: Take my life and let it be – you can listen to it here -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gf11rReeWIs>

Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise,

Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be

swift and beautiful for thee,

Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.

Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,

Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,

Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,

John 6:1-15 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

6 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival 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, "It would take more than half a year's wages^[a] to 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 they sat down (about five thousand men were there). 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 sign Jesus performed, 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.