

Sunday, July 25, 2021 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 4:42-44 - Elisha feeds 100 people

⁴²A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." ⁴³But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left.'" ⁴⁴He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

2 Kings 6: 17 – Then Elisha prayed, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see."

When have you experienced God doing a great wonder – such as the feeding of the five thousand?

When have you experienced His doing a lesser wonder – such as the feeding of a hundred?

Are you any less grateful for the lesser wonders?

Psalm 145:10-18 – God opens His hand

Verse 15 - The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season.

Verse 16 - You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Verse 17 - You are loving in all your works. You are near to all who call upon you.

Ephesians 3 - God's Marvelous Plan for the Gentiles

Verse 2-3 – The administration of God's grace was given to me for you, the mystery made known to me by revelation.

Verses 4-6 - The mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets - that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Verses 8 - Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ.

1 Corinthians 15: 9 - I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle.

Verses 17-18 - I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

Verse 19 - I pray that you will know this love that surpasses knowledge.

Verse 19 - I pray that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Verse 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.

Some translations say not just "immeasurably more" but "immeasurably far more"

When have you experienced God's doing not just more but immeasurably more, and even immeasurably far more than what you asked or imagined?

Isaiah 55: 9 – As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways.

Genesis 15: 5 – He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to."

John 6:1-21 - Christ Feeds the 5000

Verse 4 - Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near.

All four Gospels tell about the feeding of the five thousand, but only John then includes the lengthy discourse where Jesus talks about Himself as the bread of life. Because Jesus compares Himself with Moses and the manna that came down from heaven, it makes sense that John would mention the Passover.

Verse 5-7 - Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little."

Does this remind you of a time when Jesus tested you?

Verses 8-9 - One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?"

All four Gospels tell about the feeding of the five thousand, but only John mentions where the food came from. Normally five loaves and two fish would not be enough, but in the hands of Jesus they are more than enough.

Verse 11-13 - 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. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

The boy was experiencing an Ephesians 3: 20 moment – Jesus was doing immeasurably far more than he would have imagined.

When have you experienced an Ephesians 3: 20 moment?

Verses 16-18 - When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing.

Mark 6:45 mentions that the disciples got into a boat because Jesus had made them get into a boat.

Verses 19-20 - When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."

Verse 21 - Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

Mark 6 mentions that the disciples started out across the lake when it was evening (verse 47), and it was early in the morning (verse 48) when Jesus came to them walking on water.

Because of the strong wind they had only gotten three or four miles all night.

But once Jesus was with them it was like they immediately reached the land toward which they were going.

When have you made progress only with great difficulty?

When have you had time go very slowly?

When have you had it go very quickly?