

# THURSDAY, AUGUST 5TH

DAILY READING ASSIGNMENT: **Matthew 12-16**

## **"DOING IMPOSSIBLE THINGS"**

**SCRIPTURE** Matthew 14:16 "You feed them."

### **OBSERVATION**

There is a lot going on in the five chapters for today's reading. Note that in chapter 13 alone there are six separate parables. In these five chapters Jesus teaches, heals, confronts, redeems, etc.

But I want to focus on one phrase from one story. In Matthew 14 Jesus hears the news of the execution of John the Baptist. After informing his disciples of John's death he leaves in a boat--perhaps to grieve. But the crowds follow him. As it turns out, it was a huge crowd...enough to fill a small stadium. V. 21 tells us that it was 5,000 men (undoubtedly a good estimate) but that didn't include the women and children. So...and I know I'm speculating here, it wouldn't be a stretch to estimate the crowd at more than 10,000.

I did not research the crowds that followed him as to how far they walked but they came from many towns and villages. By the time they arrived to where Jesus' boat had landed they were hungry and tired.

"You feed them." That is Jesus' reply to his disciples who had told Jesus, "Send them home. It's getting late. They are getting hungry...and so are we."

Jesus' command was absurd. How could a crowd of thousands be fed with five loaves of bread and two fish (v. 17)? The math simply didn't add up.

But they gave the food to Jesus--meager as it was--and the end result was that everybody ate and there were leftovers.

Don't ask me how Jesus did that. I don't get it anymore than I get him walking on water, healing lepers or raising Lazarus from the dead. But I believe it. I believe Jesus can do stuff like that precisely because he is God and God is not limited like we are. I also believe it because I have personally experienced God doing impossible things. I can't even count the number of times I've caught myself saying, "No way! Only God..." With God ALL things are possible.

### **APPLICATION**

We all face overwhelming circumstances from time to time. You might be in one right now. They may appear to be as impossible as feeding a huge crowd with a few loaves and fishes. My problem is that I often look at the circumstances, determine it's hopeless and give up.

And yet God says to us – in lots of ways – "Hello...I am here! If you give me what you have--puny as it may be, I will bless it, multiply it and work in ways that will blow your mind."

Is it possible that you and I are facing the impossible – circumstances as overwhelming to you as the large crowd was to Jesus' disciples – and God is still saying, "You feed them. Give me what you've got – I will bless it and multiply it"?

### **PRAYER**

God of loaves and fishes; Lord over impossible circumstances, I offer you what I have. My resources are puny and the challenges before me are great. But I believe you still do miracles. So take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Help me to feed your people--to love and serve and care like Jesus, my Lord. Amen.

*S.O.A.P. Entry Author: Nick Twomey*