

Sermon 8-2-2026

The bi-annual Metcalf family reunion was held yesterday,

But then, this is the time of year for family reunions.

It's not uncommon to see 1 or two or more of these kinds of reunions being held at our local park each weekend.

I'm sure every other city park sees the same kind of numbers.

I'm also sure each of these reunions is unique in their own way, yet remarkably, they are in many ways all the same.

One thing that is always the same at these reunions is generational, the older generations' numbers decrease,

While the younger generations increase, we acknowledge and we celebrate each one.

Another thing that is the same at every family reunion is the food or should I say the abundance of food.

But for the family members who do the organizing, there is always a time of apprehension before it begins.

Before everyone arrives, the organizers bring their food offering, maybe you yourself have done the organizing.

You know the feeling of when you place your one offering on this massive row of tables,

your one offering, which in our tradition is enough sandwiches to feed your family, and a dish to pass.

You see your one offering, and your mind automatically goes into scarcity mode, you think, “Will there be enough?”

In the 50+ years I have attended these kinds of reunions, there has always been an abundance of food.

No one has ever left hungry, but still we worry.

As the ones who have been in charge of these reunions for a number of years, I know the worry attached to the word, “enough”.

We give that word a lot of power; it can take control of us, if we let it.

The dictionary tells us that “enough”, is in or to a degree, a quantity that satisfies or is sufficient or necessary for satisfaction.

When it comes to worrying, I’m unsure if that definition helps all that much.

A quantity that is sufficient or necessary for satisfaction seems to create more worries than relieve them.

“Enough” can have a multitude of different meanings, depending on the person and the situation.

Enough can be applied to almost anything we do or want or have.

We can have more than enough of one thing, and not enough of another.

A country song several years ago suggests that “you can never have too much fun,

but that begs the question, “What is enough fun, and what is not enough?” What is enough of anything?

I bring this up this morning, because our Gospel lesson is the feeding of the 5000.

The title of these passages can be a little confusing, as some title it as, Jesus feeding of the 5000,

yet Jesus isn’t the one who does the actual feeding, the disciples do.

And also, the lesson tells us only the men were counted, not the women and children>

The actual numbers were probably closer to 15-20,000, maybe more,

but at the time of the Gospels writing, it appears counting women and children wasn’t important.

We have all heard this lesson many times, but I want to focus on one point you might have missed.

After the disciples reluctantly brought Jesus the 5 loaves of bread and two fish, Jesus blessed the offering.

The disciples then distributed the meal for all to eat, and not only did all eat, all ate and were filled.

In some versions it says all were satisfied; all had more than enough.

In our society, where “all you can eat buffets” are common, and every fast-food joint pushes you to supersize your order.

For us, being filled, being satisfied, is the norm, but that wasn't the case at the time of the feeding of the 5000.

These people were under strict control of the Roman government.

The Romans controlled every aspect of their lives. They took everything. They gave back just enough to survive, never enough to feel full.

Jesus' miracle was a slap in the face for the Roman government; it was the beginning of the unraveling of Rome's power.

Food was no longer a way of control, for the first time in a long time these people finished a meal and didn't still feel hungry.

They were not only filled, but there was also even the perfect number of baskets of leftovers.

A fascinating story, but we ask, what about us, what lessons can we take from this lesson?

Well for one, I hope this lesson brings back memories of Christmas dinners, picnics and family reunions,

Places of abundance, places of more than enough. Places where you were filled not just with food but filled with love.

That is the beauty of all Christ's miracles; and they show up in all the history of God's people.

The stories are reminders that God is able to meet all our human needs.

These stories remind God's people that when God created life, he created life to be lived to its fullest.

Not just enough, but always more than enough.

Enough for not only you and me, but also enough for everyone.

That is why this story is about more than Jesus feeding the hungry.

The story also reminds us Jesus does not work alone.

He certainly could have, but he chose not to. Jesus chose to let the disciples do the gathering, the multiplying of loaves,

Jesus took what they had, he blessed it and gave it back to the disciples.

They were the ones who gave this seemingly unending feast to the crowds, an offering where all were filled, all had more than enough.

The lesson also invites each of us into a life of discipleship, it invites us to be involved in the work Jesus is already doing.

He is inviting us to help multiply the work he is already doing. He is inviting us to not only seek out those who hunger for food,

But also, to seek out those who hunger for knowledge and justice.

He calls us to seek out those who are lonely, and hunger for a friend.

We look around and the needs of the world surround us; it can be overwhelming if we let it.

We look at our meager offerings, our talents, our gifts.

They look as small as that bowl of potato salad set on the large, otherwise empty picnic table before your family reunion picnic.

We see the vastness of the table, we see our little offering, and we react just like the disciples in our Gospel lesson did.

'I don't have enough, I'm not enough, the hour is late, send them away.'

All too often We operate with a mindset of scarcity, while telling the world we believe in a God of abundance.

But what if, instead of just saying we believe in a God of abundance, we actually trusted that God would deliver that abundance?

If we do that, it begs the next question?

"What is it that this God of abundance is calling us, is inviting us, to do right now?"

God took nothing and created a universe; he created the seas and filled them to overflowing.

He created animals and plants and even us. He created us in abundance, and he invited us to live in abundance.

He calls us to help him show that abundance for all to see and experience.

We are called to discipleship, so all can be fed in mind, body, and spirit.

And unlike the original disciples, we aren't called to give up our lives in the pursuit of discipleship,

We are called to just give a little of our time and talents, the things that we have been given more than enough of.

The opportunities are all around us,

I heard just the other day that the meals on wheels program was turning away people due to lack of delivery drivers.

If you have enough time to deliver a meal to someone who doesn't have enough to eat? Maybe this opportunity is for you.

Next week at the church at the fair will be asking for an offering of nonperishables for the food pantry.

This will be a chance for us to donate some of our "more than enough", so others can experience what enough feels like.

This might seem a daunting task, but we must realize We're not called into discipleship alone.

In our Gospel lesson Jesus doesn't invite just one of his disciples to help feed the 5000, he sends all 12.

So, the lesson is telling us, we are called into discipleship as a community of faith.

We bring our offering to the table, and our neighbors bring theirs, and with God's blessing,

what appeared to be scarcity, is transformed into abundance.

Maybe that is why Matthew tells us there were 12 baskets of leftovers after feeding of the 5000.

He really wouldn't have had to; it would have been a wonderful story even without it.

But he felt it was important to not end the lesson when the hunger had been satisfied, but to end it with abundance.

I believe he did this, because each of us has the tendency to view our lives as if we ourselves were living in scarcity.

Living with not enough. Not enough time, not enough energy, not enough faith, not enough of what we need to make it through the day.

But then we remember the 12 baskets, all overflowing with God's love.

When we remember the baskets, we remember we have a God of abundance, a God of more than enough.

God's grace is never measured in barely enough, but in the assurance that God will provide everything we need and more.

The feeding of the 5000, becomes a story about each of us. It becomes a lesson about our coming together as a community.

It's about bringing our offering to the table and watching our neighbors do the same.

Then after asking for God's blessings, we watch as that table becomes a place where miracles happen.

And miracles are always more than enough!!

Thanks, be the God of "more than enough"