

Time 17B 2015

Imagination and Faith

We can do so much more than we imagine, *but we need faith*. We can exceed all our expectations, *but we need faith*. We can do extraordinary things, *but we need faith*.

Jesus understood this, but his disciples did not. And so, when the disciples saw the vast crowd, and when Jesus asked the disciples where they could buy enough food for so many people, Philip responds we don't have enough money. And when Andrew tells Jesus that they have five loaves and two fish, he quickly adds, but what good is so little for so many?

You see, the disciples were men of little imagination, and less faith. *They could not imagine* what God could do because their faith was so weak. *They could not imagine* sharing the little they had with so many because they were fearful there would not be enough. The disciples were utterly without imagination because they did not have the faith of Jesus; *they did not believe* in the abundant goodness and kindness of God; *they did not believe* all things are possible with God.

But we shouldn't be too hard on the disciples; after all, we often manifest the same lack imagination, the same weak faith, the same failure to trust in the goodness and abundance of God. *Whenever we ask*, how is this possible, *whenever we say* there won't be enough for us, *whenever we complain* we can't do it because

it is too difficult, we are like the disciples of today's gospel. We don't understand the goodness and generosity of God. We don't trust in the abundance of God's love. You see, it is not a matter of how much we have but of our willingness share what we have, no matter how little.

Jesus knew that all things are possible with God because he trusted in the goodness and love of God, his Father. And so when Andrew asked him what good the five loaves and the two fish were for so many Jesus did not hesitate; Jesus did not worry; he did not question. Filled with faith in his Father's goodness, Jesus asked the people to recline, gave thanks for the little he had, and he distributed it. He was confident and filled with faith that God would do the rest; he knew all things are possible with God.

The miracle of the loaves happens every time we receive the Eucharist. The one body of Christ satisfies everyone who receives it in faith. The one body of Christ nourishes the entire world of believers. The one body of Christ is more than enough for all who approach in faith.

There will never be enough, no matter how much we have, if we are filled with fear and greed. There will never be enough, no matter how rich we are, if we do not believe and trust in God. But there will always be an abundance, a surplus beyond all we could imagine, if we believe and trust in the One who makes all things possible, if we believe and trust in the God and Father of Jesus Christ.