

Living with Trust and Confidence

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There are times in life when we become fearful and apprehensive because we do not understand the goodness of God. We are apprehensive about our livelihood. We are fearful there won't be enough. And so we forget the words of the Psalmist, who says of God, "you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing."

The disciples in today's Gospel are fearful and apprehensive when they see the vast crowd that has followed Jesus, hungry for food to eat. Fearful and apprehensive, Philip says that even if they had two hundred days wages—a vast amount of money—they could not feed such a crowd. And when Andrew finds a boy with five loaves of bread and two small fish, he laments "what good is this for so many people?" The disciples are fearful and apprehensive because they have forgotten that God opens his hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing.

But Jesus has not forgotten, and so he instructs his disciples to distribute the food that they have, confident that God will open his hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Confident that God will provide, Jesus, like Elisha, feeds the crowds with five barely loaves and two small fish. And when the crowd has eaten their fill, there is more food left over than the crowd can eat. The people are filled with awe and wonder, and Jesus' disciples are surprised. But Jesus is not, for he has always known that when God opens his hand, God satisfies the desire of every living thing.

God opens his hand and satisfies our desire every day. Every day, God grants us the gift of life anew. Every day is filled with God's goodness and mercy. Every day is filled with God's hidden gifts that we take for granted. Every day God opens his hand and satisfies our every desire.

Consider how different our own lives would be if we lived with the trust and confidence in God that characterized Jesus' life. Consider how different our lives would be if we trusted in the goodness and kindness of God, as Jesus did. Such trust would dispel all fear and anxiety. Such trust would bring confidence and assurance. Such trust would teach us that God always cares for us, even when we are not aware of it.

Every time we come to this Eucharist, God opens his hand and satisfies our deepest desire. Every time that we approach this Eucharist, God opens his hand and satisfies our hunger. Every time that we approach this Eucharist, the miracle of the loaves occurs in our midst once more.

When we learn to believe that the hand of the Lord feeds us, we will no longer be fearful and apprehensive. And when we are no longer fearful and apprehensive, we shall be generous as God is generous.