

First letter of St. John 4: 7-10

Ps 71: 1-4. 7-8

Mark 6: 34-44

In today's Reading John tells us about God's love for us. A love so great that he sent his only son into the world, "That we might have life through him," in being, "the sacrifice that takes our sins away."

The Psalm sums up beautifully what such love could bring, whilst the Gospel gives us a picture of how this great love was as lived out by Jesus who, when he stepped ashore, 'Saw a large crowd, and he took pity on them because they were like a sheep without a shepherd.' Firstly, he met their spiritual need by teaching them through his Word. Then, by meeting their physical need for food. Through the latter, he revealed an important lesson for all of us.

Probably tired, Jesus, 'set himself to teach them at some length.' Then he told them, "Give them something to eat." To which his disciples replied, "Are we to go and spend two hundred denarii on bread for them to eat?" His answer, in so many words? Use what you have, and I will do the rest! 'He took the five loaves and two fish, raised his eyes to Heaven and said the blessing; then he broke the loaves and handed them to his disciples to distribute among the people." All five thousand were fed!

No matter how great the problem, out of love and through him, he can use the little we may have to provide for the needs of others.