

18TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR. DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES

For the last few weeks we have been reflecting on the parables of Jesus.

- ❖ From today onwards we are moving away from parables to events and most of these are miraculous events of Jesus

There are so many angles from which you can reflect on the event of today.

- I would like us to reflect from the angle of the disagreement between Jesus and his own disciples

The disciples end up being agitated and confused with the appearance of so many people who have turned up to disrupt their quiet time in the lonely place.

As evening came, they begin to move Jesus to end his healing and teaching activity.

They tell him to dismiss the crowds to let them go buy some food for their own dinners.

The crowds, however, never bothered about food: They don't seem concerned about their physical hunger.

Jesus sees that the hunger that initially drove them out from their towns into this lonely place was much more of an issue than any physical hunger.

- The disciples couldn't see this at all.
- It is this lack of perception that irritates.
- Without delay he challenges them straight away to feed the crowds themselves.

Jesus is not in the business of turning the people away even when they interrupt his quiet time.

He therefore tells his disciples that there is no need to dismiss the crowds.

- ❖ For Jesus, instead of sending people away the disciples should be inviting them closer.
- ❖ Instead of telling them to go and take care of their open needs they should be feeding them both spiritually and physically

OPERATING FROM THE PLACE OF SCARCITY

Jesus is quick to challenge them in this manner because he sees that the disciples are operating from the wrong place of scarcity.

He is challenging them because even though the disciples are in the company of the Bread of life himself they still worry about the effects of physical hunger.

When Jesus tells them to feed them themselves, the disciples hit back at Jesus with a protest: ***“All we have are five loaves and two fish”***.

- The best way they persist is still to get rid of the crowds.

They would not think of letting go because it was not enough even for the thirteen of them.

Jesus is challenging them//us to stop operating from the place of scarcity

- This is the weakest place to operate from.
- Some of us always operate from this place

Jesus orders them to let go. He says let me have that which is not enough.

- He then taught them, and us, a basic lesson: Whatever you have is enough.
- At Cana, all they had was water, and it was all he needed; He would do the rest. We may not have as much as we want, but we have more than we need.

How do we consider ourselves in the whole area of responsibility for the welfare of others?

We are so lucky in this parish that we have tools like the One World Group and the SVP in our parish as well as CAFOD to respond to the welfare of others.

I cannot but thank the people of the parish for their willingness to let go in support of these.