

## VARIED RESPONSES TO HUMAN NEED

John 6: 1-15

We have today the story of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. The miracle of feeding was done for a hungry crowd out in the countryside, who appeared to have no food between them. Faced by their obvious need, the disciples responded in different ways and it is important for ourselves to pay attention to how each character reacts to the perceived need.

1. Philip the pragmatist calculated that, based on the number of people and the little money they had, no solution was possible.
2. Andrew saw a glimmer of hope in the fact that a boy in the crowd had a small amount of food – five loaves and two fish; but he dismissed this as insignificant in the circumstances.
3. Then comes the noteworthy reaction of the boy. He was willing to hand over whatever food he had brought. He just had that generous instinct to contribute what little he could.
4. Then there is the response of Jesus himself. He took the food that was offered and after giving thanks to God, somehow fed the large crowd.

We may be dismissive of one reaction or the other and stop at giving thumbs up to the little boy. But in all fairness, all the four characters have role to play in the miracle. What matters is that we are available to get involved in the problem solving and register our response. The Lord will work a miracle out of the responses we all contribute. No character is better than the other in this miracle.

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