

Lent Day 16  
Saturday February 27, 2016

**Reading:** Mark 6.30-44

### **Reflection**

I don't remember ever having the thought, "What have I done?" after getting married, but I know I've had it. At that point I had spent most of my life on a couch watching TV and doing as little as possible other than that. If I had to do a chore I left it to as late as possible and then did it as quickly as I could. I was lazy. Lazy is fine when there's no one else, but once you get married there is another person with another agenda and clear expectations - what had I done?!

Of course it wasn't just marriage, or my wife. Life had blown up. I had to have a job because we rented an apartment and I wasn't free to quit it when I had had enough of it. Then we had a baby which required attention. Then we took on a mortgage for a house. The weight of life and responsibility began to pile onto this former slob and I found it heavy. Frankly, I wasn't sure I could do it, or wanted to.

I think that's how these apostles felt. Notice that. Notice that when Jesus sent them they were the twelve, but now they are the apostles, "the sent ones". They went up, more responsibility.

And perhaps they thought they were living up to their new positions by advising Jesus to send the crowd away so they could eat - that's responsible thinking, right? Then Jesus piles on more.

"You feed them." The command seems so impossible to fulfill its almost ridiculous. "How?" "With what?" "Why?" These are all reasonable questions. But Jesus isn't reasonable he's a man with a mission which includes developing disciples who can do more in and for the kingdom of God than they ever believed. Notice how connected the (now again) disciples are in the process. They assess resources, they organize the people, and they distribute the food.

The same is true of us today. Jesus is still in the disciple making business. Because that's the case we are in trouble. We are going to have more responsibility thrust at us than we are comfortable with. We might not believe we can do it, or even want to. The good news is that we are only one part of the scenario. It is Jesus who does the 'real' work. We just have to trust he will get us through. That's why almost 18 years later I am still married, am raising three wonderful daughters, moved to another province, and pastoring a church - Jesus is faithful, I've learned to trust, and he has brought me by the hand. He'll do the same for you. Trust me; trust Jesus!

### **Prayer**

Maker of men and women, teach us to rely on you, to draw on your power not our own. Show us all that you want to do through us for the sake of the world and help us to believe we can do it. Amen.