

Annunciation Parish - Scripture Study 7/28/20

—Greeting and Opening Prayer

Any thoughts or questions from scripture passages you have read?

- Other faith questions?

READINGS:

IS 55:1-3

PS 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18 (The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs)

ROM 8:35, 37-39

MT 14:13-21

GOSPEL:

- Jesus hears about the death of John the Baptist. Do you think it was a surprise?
- He withdraws to a deserted place.
 - Why did he retreat? He does this many times. What is the purpose of “retreat”?
- The crowd follows him and beats him to the spot. He has “pity” on them and heals.
 - What is this pity about? How do we respond when we have plans and these are disrupted by those who may be in need?
- They also need to eat. He is advised to send them away to be fed he says “There is no need to send them away” “give them some food yourselves” - What deeper meaning could there be here? He probably did not need to take an inventory to know there was not enough food available.
- They bring to Jesus what they have - not enough to do the job - he then multiplies so there is more than enough. What does this mean about our resources? What is the connection to the Eucharist? - there is more than one meaning going on here
- “They all get and were satisfied” - does the satisfaction go beyond removal of hunger?

FIRST READING:

- All who are thirsty and hungry can come and be satisfied without cost. Where?
- Spend your “money” on what really satisfies - What is meant?
- “Heed me” and eat, “come heedfully” and have life. Heed what? Come to where?
- God will renew the everlasting covenant and the benefits assured to David. How? How does this restoration lead to the satisfaction mentioned above? How does this connect to the Gospel?

SECOND READING:

- What can separate from the Love of Christ?
 - He lists many things: Internal struggles, bodily need basics (food and clothing), external threats. He asks if the whole gamut of things that can harm us mentally and physically can have any impact on the love of Christ. What do you say?
- IN ALL THESE THINGS we conquer. How do we conquer IN these things?
- Paul has a deep conviction that there is no power that can separate us from Christ - he lists heavenly things and earthly things, amorphous creatures, political structures, vague powers - he is intending to include everything.
- If it is not possible to be separated from the Love of God in Christ Jesus, how do we lose the awareness and effects of that Love?

—Closing Prayer