

17th Sunday of Ordinary Time, John 6.1-15
Homily July 25, 2021
Deacon Victor Mesta

Dear Brothers and sisters, we heard the readings and the Gospel, and there is always a link between the first reading and the Gospel itself.

In this case, both concern the multiplication of loaves, and also, the fact that Elisha is a prophet, and that Jesus is called Prophet by the multitude.

The Gospel shows us today, the reaction of two persons - Philip and Andrew -, both disciples of Jesus, facing the impossible.

Brothers and Sisters, how often do we find ourselves in situations beyond our abilities to cope?

How often does the gap between our resources and the issue to be dealt with seem too great?

I am sure that many of us will answer - "many times" -.

This is our reality, we are human beings, and in a matter of seconds, we forget the most important fact - that with God all is possible.

Our human frailty pushes us to forget two basic things: the power of God and the will of God, and this applies in any aspect of our life - the power of God and the will of God -.

Brothers and sisters, our faith is always under test. We are not in heaven; we are here on earth.

And Jesus tested his disciples with a simple question: "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ... Jesus didn't tell them "Here is the money for feeding this multitude"

And what was the answer from Philip? - "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little."

And what was the answer from Andrew? - "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?"

I am pretty sure that these reactions are very familiar to us.

And, the disciples had seen the miracles; they had accompanied Jesus during his teachings; but when they had to face the "impossible", they forgot that with God all is possible.

Brothers and sisters, the power of God is often made perfect in our weakness, and he can work powerfully in us.

This miracle was not only about feeding people. The miracle was to be a sign for the people gathered there. A sign for his disciples, and it is also a sign for us.

Brothers and Sisters, with God, all is possible. Never we must doubt of this.

The crowds who saw these "signs" came in some degree of faith. And the result was that after the meal, many come to believe because they had seen.

And the question for us is: - How many miracles have we seen in our lives? ... How many times have we been aware that the mercy of God has overcome that difficult moment in our life. - How many times? - but even so, it is not easy for us to believe in the power of God.

Brothers and sisters, we are not alone God is with us always, especially when we have to face hard times in our lives, especially when we have to face an illness or the loss of a loved one, God is there to confront us with the impossible and test our faith.

We must remain firm in our faith to be able to say at the end as Saint Paul said: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness"

Brothers and sisters never forget: - the power of God and the will of God - Amen