



JUNE - A young boy's generosity

The feeding of the 5000 is a familiar story and told in all 4 of the New Testament gospels. There has been much debate about how 5 barley loaves (cheapest of all bread) and 2 fish fed all those people. However it happened it was a miracle. Thinking about it within our theme today of 'generosity' this is what occurred to me.

Firstly the young lad was generous. Maybe he was out for the day, with his picnic and attached himself to the crowd but somehow got talking to Andrew. Children weren't thought much of in those days but Andrew's generous friendly heart built some sort of rapport with the boy who then offered his picnic. Secondly, is it likely that all those people who had walked a very long way (about 9 miles) would have gone out without supplies? Surely some took something with them. But they were holding tight to what they had brought – and who can blame them. They may have come as family or friendship groups and what was theirs, was theirs. But then Jesus offers up the small picnic to be blessed by God and something happens....those people who were holding tightly to what was rightfully theirs started to share.

Generosity was birthed in their hearts by a young lad's generosity and Jesus acceptance of it. Everyone got fed and was full – and, so much came out of the people's bags that there was even some left over! 12 baskets worth. It is easy for us to be like these crowds. We too hold on tightly to what we have for so many reasons. Insecurity about the future, a 'rainy day', retirement, a bigger house or a better holiday, "well I earned it", "what about my family" and so on. These feelings are natural and justified BUT ... and in the upside down Kingdom of God there is always a BUT... if the God we worship is the creator of everything and owns everything then nothing we have is ours anyway. It is all God's but we are just blessed to share in a small bit of it. So we are giving away what is God's and not ours. Also a generous heart never goes without and is rewarded in so many ways... we are blessed by giving as are those who are on the receiving end. There is so much need about, it can overwhelm us. When my dad died and his finances were being sorted out we found that he gave about £5 a month to loads of different charities. A God fearing man with a big heart who reacted and responded with his pocket to every need he saw and by today's standard he didn't have a lot. I am not sure this was the best use of his money BUT I admire and respect his generosity. He knew what was important in life and held on to most things very lightly because he believed everything belonged to his Lord; just entrusted to him for a time.

Thank you for your generosity – and speaking personally for my birthday wishes, gifts and CAKE last month.

Dates for your diary

Sunday @ 4 on July 1st

Messy church – July 3rd

Sunday August 5th and August 19th – summer picnics