

# LWML *Texas* District

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Meditation

## Following the Crowd

In John 6:2, we see a large crowd following Jesus because He was working miracles. This is the context for the feeding of the 5,000. Jesus fed them with five barley loaves and two fish. At the end of the passage it says, *Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself* (John 6:15).

Even though some of the crowd was following simply out of curiosity for this traveling healer and teacher, Jesus had mercy on them. He saw and had experienced hunger just like them. He provided even when He knew their next step would be to attempt to make Him king, a role He did not come to play on earth.

When has God provided you with your physical needs? When has there been food or water at just the right time? When has a surprise check come in the mail, or a debt paid unexpectedly? When has the actual cost been lower than expected?

Jesus continues to provide physically for us through the Sacraments. We receive forgiveness through the means of grace in Baptism and, regularly, in Communion. He is present with us in the midst of our struggle and need. As the Bible says, *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it* (1 Corinthians 10:13).

So, are you following Jesus just because of the cool things He is able to do, or are you following Jesus because He is the Messiah and has already won your soul?

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