

LWML *Texas* District

March 25, 2024

Meditation

Best Meal Ever!

The best meals are when you are the hungriest. While on a trip my husband and I decided to eat at a specialty restaurant. We did not realize we needed reservations. By the time we arrived at the restaurant, the only remaining reservation time was after nine pm. We could have eaten elsewhere, but the restaurant had raving reviews and we had our hearts set on their cuisine. We waited, albeit not too patiently, the three hours until our reservation. I was completely starved and have never eaten such a delectable risotto. It was one of the best meals of my life.

Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" (John 6:5–14).

Jesus was preaching and there were many people listening. In fact, so many people were present Philip claimed it would take 200 denarii to buy bread for the crowd. Two hundred denarii would have been nine months' worth of wages for a day laborer, and this would simply buy bread. Jesus performed the miracle of taking five loaves of bread and two fish to feed 5000 people with 12 baskets remaining! While the meal may not have had a Michelin star rating, it filled the crowds' bellies. At Jesus' final Passover meal before His crucifixion, He institutes an even better meal than the feeding of the 5000, or delectable risotto at the end of a long day.

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:26–28).

When we come to the Lord's table, we approach with contrite hearts — hearts hungry for the gift of forgiveness. Hearts hungry for only what God can satisfy. He knows our deepest sins. He knows our greatest needs. He knows the hunger for His Word, for His Son, for His forgiveness.

Praise God for the ultimate meal for the hungry, and for His invitation which extends to those who are repentant and would receive this meal of forgiveness through faith.

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Written by Kayla Winkler

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