

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

**"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."**

John 6: 10-13

Will there be enough love and grace to go around for everyone, including you? God has a lot of people to look after. When I was growing up, my parents only had my sister and me to care for. We both felt ample love from our parents. I do know that some families are much bigger. Karen grew up with 3 other siblings. Some grow up with 5, 6, or even 8 siblings! How can their parents have enough love to go around? Won't they love the first one with 80% of their love, saving some love for another child, and then love the second child with 10% of their love, saving 10% more just in case they have a third child. Doesn't love have to be rationed?

What about the blessings and love of God? Doesn't God need to ration these things as well? Do you ever feel like God may not have enough blessings and love to go around, and that you might be one of the ones who will receive only what is left, that is, if anything is left at all? Will God remember to look after me during these difficult days? Might He get distracted? Might I be lost in the shuffle? After all, there is a lot going on. There are a lot of people with more problems than I have. Will God pay more attention to them because they have more needs or problems than I do?

Sometimes one sibling might act out in their behavior just to get more attention from his/her parents, even if it's for a negative reason. We all need to know that we matter.

The account of Jesus feeding the 5,000+ people with only 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread isn't just about filling bellies. It makes it clear to us that there is plenty of good things from God to go around. It will never run out. God does not need to ration His love, or His forgiveness, or His time, or His blessings of any kind. Whatever you and I need, God will make sure there is plenty to give to us. The fish and the loaves fed all of the thousands of people that were following Jesus, and then when they could eat no more, there were still LEFTOVERS!

So, whatever it is that you need from God right now, there is more than enough to go around. Do you need love? You are loved beyond comprehension. Do you need strength for life right now? You have access to a limitless amount of strength. Do you need hope to make it through another day? You have hope that is overflowing!

Stay close to God. Read His Word. Keep on praying. Everything you need will be provided. The Bible says, "He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will he not also graciously give us all things?" (*Romans 8: 32*)

God's peace!
Pastor Jim