

## This Week's Readings

### First Reading: 1 Kings 4: 42-44.

A parallel with the Gospel Reading. There doesn't seem to be enough food to go round, yet all are fed, with some to spare.

### Second Reading: Ephesians 4: 1-6.

Paul urges us to be of one mind and heart.

### Gospel: John 6: 1-15.

Jesus took the few loaves, offered thanks, broke the bread and gave the people as much as they wanted, and there was some left over.



## Points for Reflection

Jesus came to inaugurate God's kingdom:

1. The kingdom he was proclaiming was not of this world, yet it was directly connected with this world. It was unthinkable that such a basic human need as desire for food would be left unsatisfied by it. Therefore, one day, when he saw that the people following him had not eaten, Jesus multiplied bread for them (**Today's Gospel**). As we can see, the kingdom of God is not merely concerned with the spiritual needs of mankind, but with all our needs, both spiritual and material. The multiplication of bread, therefore, cannot be seen simply as a symbol of the giving of spiritual food.

2. Jesus, however, could not accept to be made a king by the crowd, and that for two reasons:

- Firstly, because, being the One who was inaugurating God's kingdom, his concern was not confined to the needs of one particular crowd. His concern was for the needs, both spiritual and material, of the people of all times and places.
- Secondly, if he had accepted to be made king simply because of that particular action of feeding the hungry crowd, his followers would have easily regarded his kingship as mainly concerned with human material needs, whereas Jesus'

concern was and is also for our spiritual hunger. He is concerned for all men's needs and for the needs of the whole human being. He came to free us from all kinds of bondage. Those people had followed him in order to hear his message.

- That message, the Good News, could never be interpreted merely as a satisfaction of a bodily need, though it did not exclude it. The material bread multiplied by Jesus is also the symbol of the spiritual bread that nourishes us throughout eternity. Jesus came to satisfy the poor, but the bread he provides in abundance is the Bread of the Father's family. This is the only Bread that will satisfy all human aspirations.
- The divine Bread we receive by believing in Jesus and by accepting him as our only Saviour and Lord, will lead us to love all the members of God's family; it will fill us with the desire and determination to provide bread for those members of God's family who have little or no bread at all: *"Give us today our daily bread..."*
- All of us are called, to the best of our ability, to foster brotherhood in our own environment and to become sensitive to the needs of our brothers and sisters all over the world.

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### Kids' Corner

*Colour the picture below based on today's Gospel reading.*

