Daily Encouragement – 19th November

*Luke 9: 11-17*

“But the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.”

He replied, “You give them something to eat.”

They answered, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all this crowd.”(About five thousand men were there.)

But he said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.”The disciples did so, and everyone sat down. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.”

Let’s do some maths – 400g of bread per man – 5 men is 2kg – 5,000 men is 2 tonnes (women and children seem not to count (except to Jesus) or be counted!) If the bread had been multiplied in Jesus’ hands when he lifted it up to heaven and prayed, the disciples would have been digging him out with a shovel.

As in modern examples, the miracle happened in ordinary hands.

A morsel of bread made amazing with God.

What morsel can we put in Jesus’ hands today? A morsel of faith, joy or love? Perhaps a bit of fish - shaped as compassion, or a slice - of prayer. The disciples hadn’t been sent out to do incredible things yet – they were probably a bit like us, struggling to do this in public especially when that means telephone, facetime or zoom.

But nothing you do in the Lord’s name returns void. So, lets put something into the miraculous hands of Jesus today confident that it can feed a need.

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