

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 13) – August 2, 2026

***Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said,
“This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away
to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”***

But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”

They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.”

***And he said, “Bring them here to me.” Then he ordered the crowds to sit
down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up
to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the
disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and
were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces
left over.***

- Matthew 14:15-20 -

Have you ever been asked to do something that you ultimately felt unqualified to do, so you say no? Or, you say yes with incredible doubt, but end up sticking with it and learning something new? There are times when we can all relate to this scenario because we all have had doubts about our skills and talents. There's also the possibility we simply believe that we don't have enough to offer.

In our Scripture today, we read about the disciples being told to feed the growing crowds of people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. The disciples were asked to do something they thought was impossible; they didn't believe there was enough to give. But what does Jesus do? He takes the loaves and fish, looks up to heaven, and says a blessing over them. Jesus took what little they had and turned it into something more.

It's the same with our doubt about what we have to give, whether it is our time, talent, or money; God can multiply and use whatever resource we give over to him. Therefore, we don't have to harbor those doubts as to whether we are enough, or have enough, in order to do what God is asking of us.

This Scripture is a beautiful reminder that when we prayerfully turn our doubts over to God, we can serve the Lord in a multitude of ways! Imagine how satisfying and fulfilling to serve in such capacity!

Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of our time, talents, and treasures. May we always turn them over to you in order to serve in ways we can't even imagine. Amen.

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL