

# First Holy Communion – April 29/30, 2017 – Reflection

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In the bible, St. John tells the story in his gospel of a time when Jesus was with a great crowd of people ... kind of like we have here today. Some of the people were families with their kids; some were single men and women; some were elders ... grandmas and grandpas; and some of the people were sick and in pain. They all came to Jesus because they really hoped He could help them, could give them what they needed to live happy lives.

At first, they were a little selfish, pushing one another to get closer to Jesus, calling out after Jesus to get His attention for their problems, caring only about themselves and what they wanted. But after awhile, the crowds settled down and actually started to listen to what Jesus was saying. He told them stories about how much God loved each and every one of them. Sometimes He told them that if they really wanted to be happy, they would have to change how they were living. And sometimes, Jesus told them little stories about all sorts of things in life, but each story was like a lesson on the right way to be.

The crowds grew quiet. They listened all day. People forgot they had to be places. People even forgot they missed lunch. It was getting late and Jesus' closest friends, the apostles, were getting worried that if the crowd got hungry, they might not be too friendly anymore. So they whispered to Jesus that He should send them away into the surrounding villages so the people could buy food for their suppers.

And Jesus said the strangest thing. He said to one of the apostles, Philip, "You give them something to eat!" Philip's eyes bulged outta their sockets. He stammered. He stuttered. He said, "I don't got that kinda money. I could work a year and save every penny and still I wouldn't have enough to buy food for these thousands of people! How do you expect me to feed them???"

Just then, up came another one of Jesus' friends, Andrew was his name. He had a little boy with him who had gone out for his Mom and Dad to get something for the family for supper. The boy had in a little basket five small loaves of pita bread and a coupla sardines. But what good was that with so many mouths to feed??

Jesus took the basket with the bread and fish and lifted it up to God. Jesus said a prayer and then began to pass the basket around to all the hungry people in the crowd: the families ate; the singles ate; the grandmas and the grandpas ate; the sick people ate ... and when everyone was full up to the gills, and the apostles gathered up the crumbs of the leftovers, there was enough food to fill twelve more baskets.

Everyone came to see Jesus to get what they thought they needed but, in the end, Jesus gave everyone who came to Him more than enough to fill their hearts.

Who knows what our children will grow up to be? Though some dream they're princesses, I doubt few will ever wear a crown. Though some dream they'll be Patriots, I doubt we'll buy tickets to see many of them play. But when they get older, and they have all sorts of needs, I wonder if they'll still know where to go ... where to go to find Someone

who knows just what they need; Someone who can fill their hearts with everything that is important, that matters, that lasts in life.

A long time ago, a friend of God named Andrew brought a little child to Jesus and that little child's contribution made all the difference in thousands of people's lives. Today, with these crowds, you have brought your little children to Jesus. Keep bringing them so that they'll grow up to know Who's the One that loves them no matter what, Who's the One Who can teach them the lessons they'll need to be happy, Who's the One Who can put them back together when they get broken, Who's the One Who can feed them when they're starving.

Keep bringing them so they'll know Jesus. They'll know Him in the breaking of the Bread.