

**Take 2 With Jesus**  
**Daily Reflections on the Sunday Gospel**  
**Week beginning Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July**

***Jesus gives generously.***

This week's reflections are based on the Gospel reading for the 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, Jn 6:1-15. Further reflections on this Gospel can be found at <http://www.prayasyoucan.com.au/sunday/show/592/gospel>.

**Sunday**

*A large crowd followed him,  
impressed by the signs he gave curing the sick,  
(Jn 6: 2)*

Rightly were the crowd impressed with Jesus, just as we would be. They were about to receive the benefits of another great sign, but this would not lead to faith but rather angry words and rejection of Jesus! One can be impressed and look for what the person they admire can give them, or one can be impressed and give oneself in love.

*Loving Jesus, you do not want me to just admire you or be impressed by you. You want me to give myself to you, to believe in you.*

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by considering the difference between the people you admire and the people you love.

## Monday

*Jesus said to Philip,  
‘Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?’  
(Jn 6:5)*

We face this situation every day: the need in our world and Jesus asking us what will we do. This isn't to make us feel inadequate but rather to invite us into that expansive spirit that he has towards all. Whatever little we have can be turned, with God's grace, into something glorious and generous. But first we have to recognise a need and want to assuage it.

*Loving Jesus, don't allow my mind and heart to be overwhelmed by the needs that I see but rather let them open the gates of generosity in me.*

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by looking for ways to give generously without looking for a reward.

## Tuesday

*He said this only to test Philip.  
He himself knew exactly what he was going to do.  
(Jn 6:6)*

One of the greatest challenges to faith is the question: just how does God work in our world. How is God involved in the challenges and difficulties of our lives? I don't know the answer but when I look at the cross, I see that God, in Jesus, has entered into the mess and suffering of humanity, is on our side, working to bring us into the fullness of grace, of divine life.

*Loving Jesus, at times I find life challenging and even painful. Let me relinquish my desire to control and let me have faith in what you can do in my life.*

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by trying to go with the flow in situations over which you have no control.

## **Wednesday**

*Philip said,  
'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough for a small piece each.'  
(Jn 6:7)*

Philip focussed on how little they had but Jesus knew how expansive his generosity would be. Perhaps we are so fearful of the challenges of life because we focus too much on what we lack, instead of offering our little over to the generosity of God.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

*Loving Jesus, teach me not to be daunted by my lack. Rather let my neediness attract your delightful, abundant generosity.*

Continue your prayer through this day by noticing when God gives you the gifts you need to fulfil the challenges before you.

## **Thursday**

*Philip said,  
"There is a small boy here with five loaves and two fish."  
(Jn 6:8)*

The other disciples must have thought Andrew was an idiot when he told them what the little kid had to offer. But not Jesus! He took what the weakest and most insignificant had to offer and turned it into a feast. Maybe what is wrong with our society is that we don't treasure what the weakest among us have to offer.

*Loving Jesus, I live in the midst of weak and vulnerable people...and I too am weak and vulnerable. Let me treasure the gifts of the weak.*

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by noticing the gifts of the people you are likely to ignore or dismiss.

## Friday

*Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out.  
(Jn 6:11)*

How must that child have felt when Jesus took the little he had to offer, heard the blessing and saw how so many were feed. This was something to live by. Perhaps there is so much need in our world, not because of lack, but because we don't realise how precious and sacred is the little that we already have. If we understood that, we would share.

*Loving Jesus, take my life and what I have, bless and give thanks over it that I may generously share who I am with those around me.*

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through his day by looking for opportunities to generously share in small ways.

## Saturday

*When they had eaten enough, Jesus said to his disciples:  
'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.'  
(Jn 6:12)*

One of the challenges of our time is the level of material abundance in which we live. Excess is killing the spirit of our society and making us less than human. Yet we do not want bring back poverty and harshness of life. What can we do? Begin by not wasting, by acknowledging that the abundance we have is precious and take active steps not to waste.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

*Loving Jesus, while you give abundantly to me, you do not want me to waste what I have been given. Give me the discipline to treasure all in my care.*

Continue your prayer through this day by reusing one thing you would normally have wasted.

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