



THIS IS YOUR SPACE TO STAND UP

REFLECTION POINTS 28 JUNE 2020

MANNA IN THE DESERT – EXODUS 16:13-21

“ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. 14When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. 15When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, ‘What is it?’* For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. 16This is what the Lord has commanded: “Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.”’ 17The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. 18But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed. 19And Moses said to them, ‘Let no one leave any of it over until morning.’ 20But they did not listen to Moses; some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul. And Moses was angry with them. 21Morning by morning they gathered it, as much as each needed; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

REFLECTION

- The Hebrew people have left Egypt and now they are moaning.
- They are hungry, and the way ahead is unclear which is the whole point.
- They need to learn to be God’s people again, relying on God.
- God provides
- How do we, as a community, show we are God’s people?
- How do we focus less on our own needs and more on the needs of others?

ELIJAH AND WIDOW – 1 KINGS 17:8-16

“ Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 9‘Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.’ 10So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, ‘Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.’ 11As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, ‘Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.’ 12But she said, ‘As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.’ 13Elijah said to her, ‘Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. 14For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.’ 15She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. 16The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

REFLECTION

- The widow shares the last food she has with Elijah.
- The jar does not empty and the jug does not fail.
- All are fed sufficiently.
- The widow is fed physically and then spiritually.
- What does this say to us today?

FEEDING THE CROWD OF 5000 – MATTHEW 14:15-21

“ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, ‘This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.’ 16Jesus said to them, ‘They need not go away; you give them something to eat.’ 17They replied, ‘We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.’ 18And he said, ‘Bring them here to me.’ 19Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

REFLECTION

- The boy shares what little he has.
- The bread is blessed, broken and shared.
- ‘You feed them’.
- ‘Feed by sheep’.
- How does this point us towards God’s mission?

LAST SUPPER – LUKE 22:14-20

“ When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. 15He said to them, ‘I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; 16for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.’ 17Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, ‘Take this and divide it among yourselves; 18for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.’ 19Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ 20And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.’

REFLECTION

- Bread is a staple for many people.
- God provides through us - we can do our bit with the little we have and share.

- Sharing with others means stepping aside from what we want in order that they can have what they need. Remember if we take more than we need, someone else receives less than they need.

WHEN THIS IS OVER BY LAURA KELLY FANUCCI

When this is over,
may we never again take for granted
a handshake with a stranger
conversations with neighbours
a crowded theatre
Friday night out
the taste of Communion
a routine check-up
the school rush each morning
coffee with a friend
the stadium roaring
each deep breath
a boring Tuesday
life itself.
When this ends,
may we find that we have become
more like the people we wanted to be,
we were called to be,
we hoped to be.
And may we stay that way – better for each other
because of the worst.