

## Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map  
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John 6:1-15  
July 24, 2016

### Live - living and breathing God's promise to be your God

*Problem solving* can be a great teaching tool

- Reveals skills, abilities, resources you have
- Exposes how you think - its limits, good thinking to be developed
- Exposes your assumptions and self-imposed limitations
- Jesus gave the 12 a problem to solve - a day long test
  - ♦ Test: How would they apply what they learned on their mission trip?  
Sent to live under God's promise: your God graciously provides
  - ♦ Catechism: *I believe that God made me ... gave me ... still preserves me by richly and daily providing ... God also preserves me...* Catechism 1<sup>st</sup> Art.
    - God doesn't act on a whim. He promises: *He daily and richly...*
    - Truth not just to explain. Reality: how I see life, what expect, breathe
    - Our test: Are we relying on this - living & breathing God's promise?

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What does such a life look like? Look to our Brother and Savior Jesus

- ❖ God's promise shapes our **expectation** and **problem solving** - breathing
  - The 12's problem solving **exposes the problem**: *people-limited thinking*
    - ♦ Philip: *a well padded bank account couldn't provide appetizers*
    - ♦ Andrew: resources on hand: *5 barley loaves + 2 fish* = virtually nothing
    - ♦ Other Gospel: *Jesus, send them off to buy their own...*
    - ♦ Focused on God's normal ways of providing - through people & things
  - They failed to apply what they had learned so far
    - ♦ God provided as needed on their mission travel - as promised
    - ♦ Jesus is the Son of God who turned water to wine, etc.
  - Respond: Lord you promise. You are capable of giving *more than we ask or image*. Jesus, what do you have in mind? (ex. Manna & 1st Lesson)
    - ♦ With this event: The God who promises to take care of us with grace:
      - Shows us what he can do - his power and wisdom have no limits
      - It's undeserved love. Sinners don't deserve it. This crowd... Us...
    - ♦ Baptized: live & breathe **his promise**: *He's our God, we're his people.*
      - God I expect you to provide. What do you have in mind?
      - Use me to do your work. - Note: the *12 servers...*
      - God rarely works miracles, but regularly works wonders. Expect it.

- ❖ Seeing everything is from God's grace - we breathe thanksgiving
  - *Jesus then took the bread, gave thanks, and distributed ...*
  - How do you view meal prayers and giving of thanks?
    - ♦ As a godly expectation - we owe it to God?
    - ♦ As a nice habit - if you think of it, feel like it, don't embarrass yourself?
    - ♦ Something parents teach children to do - i.e. for children?
  - When you see *every good and perfect gift comes from the Father...*
    - ♦ Neither hard work, Mother Nature, or *my money* give anything w/o God
    - ♦ *All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heave, and not because I have earned or deserved it.* Catechism - 1st Article
    - ♦ Everything good I have, get, experience - God is the active giver
  - Living & breathing this truth I live & breathe thanks. It's woven into my new fabric.
- ❖ Steward God's gracious gifts with respect and generosity - a way of life
  - **"Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."**
    - ♦ 12 baskets (3-6 5 gal. buckets) - More than they started with!
    - ♦ Proof of the Miracle - **pieces of the 5 barley loaves left over**
    - ♦ Proof of God's gracious giving - *made rich in every way.*
      - Jesus didn't just feed souls and minds - bodies too!
      - Our Creator cares about our **whole person** to **make us whole**
      - **Start**: faith, new life, reconnect to him - **End**: bodily Resurrection
  - Just because it's free to you doesn't mean it's cheap/of little value
    - ♦ Don't value like the world with a price tag - earth bound value system
    - ♦ Every breath, bite, sight, sound, touch, word of God = God's gift
    - ♦ Value asking: God how do you want me to recognize this as your gift?
      - That's Christian Stewardship of all God gives: physical & Spiritual
      - Overwhelming! How can I care for it all?
      - Those who know God's will - seek to use his gifts to do his will
      - **Be generous** - like our God. Stewardship is **not** spelled: C.H.E.A.P.
      - Those who live and breath God's promises of grace are giving!

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