

**Meditation 2014-03-30**  
**The Fourth Sunday Of Lent**  
**Meditation Theme: “Will God Give Me What I Need?”**

**Place yourself** in the presence of Jesus Christ. Make sure He knows that every thought, action, and experience of today is dedicated exclusively to Him.

The Scenario: From the Gospel of today’s Mass

**A**T that time: Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is that of Tiberias. And a great multitude followed Him, because they saw the miracles which He did on them that were diseased. Jesus therefore went up into a mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. Now the pasch, the festival day of the Jews, was near at hand. When Jesus therefore had lifted up His eyes, and seen that a very great multitude cometh to Him, he said to Philip: Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this He said to try him; for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered Him: Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one may take a little. One of His disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, saith to Him: There is a boy here that hath five barley loaves, and two fishes; but what are these among so many? Then Jesus said: Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. The men therefore sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves: and when He had given thanks, He distributed to them that were set down. In like manner also of the fishes, as much as they would. And when they were filled, He said to His disciples: Gather up the fragments that remain, lest they be lost. They gathered up therefore, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above to them that had eaten. Now those men, when they had seen what a miracle Jesus had done, said: This is of a truth the Prophet, that is to come into the world. Jesus therefore, when He knew that they would come to take Him by force, and make Him king, fled again into the mountain himself alone.

**Point 1.** – Jesus works a most public miracle in front of and for a huge crowd. Jesus worked public miracles in order to make His Truth publicly evident.

**Point 2.** – His disciples did not know what Jesus was planning to do, and, even though they had witnesses miracles before, they were as amazed as the crowd.

**Point 3.** – Jesus freely gives the people what they need. His generosity is made as evident as His power.

**Meditation:** Jesus feeds the multitudes. He gave them more than they needed. Why? Did He do so merely because they were hungry? Did He do so to display that He possesses the Divine Power? Was He obliged to do this? Would the crowd have expected that they be fed? Would they have had any right to expect this? Was the feeding of an itinerant preacher’s audience a customary thing?

Do I understand that what Jesus gives me is free? Do I have to pay anything for it? Do I have to do anything with it? Do I have to accept His gifts? Can I refuse them? Did anyone in the crowd refuse to eat? Would I accept a gift that was evil or that would do me harm? Would Jesus ever give me such?

Jesus knew well the reactions His miracles would produce. Would I, had I been there, have taken the same lesson as the crowd? Would I have reacted the same way? Would I have tried to force upon Him a crown He already possessed? Would I have expected Him to become a King of the kind I wanted Him to be? And if He was a different kind of King, would I have continued to follow Him? Do I feel that way now? Do I say, "I will acknowledge Your Kingship only if You do things the way I want?" Jesus will not be King according to my requirements. Do I accept His requirements? Do I know what His requirements are? Do I try to meet them? Do I try to find out what His requirements are?

**Colloquy:** Take a minute or two to converse with God, in any of His three Persons, or the Triune God complete in Himself. Tell Him what you have learned from your meditation, and thank Him for it.

**Hold the Gain:** Consider what you can do to keep the fruits of your meditation. Try to plan how you can think of them through the day, and through the days ahead. Come up with ways you can apply your conclusions to what you do in your everyday life, conversations you engage in, the choice of what movie to watch, what books you choose to read.