

“Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread and fish to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people.” Luke 9:16 NLT

[lectio] // LUKE 9:10-17

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

[meditatio]

reflect on – what word, words, phrase, or sentence speaks to you from the text, then write them down

I am always amazed at Jesus' bold training methods. Here, he waits until the disciples get it. They understand exactly what happens when people follow you, they become needy. And when the men sensed this dilemma, they did what leaders in training do, they took the problem to their teacher. Jesus, then flips the script, by telling them to feed the crowd. "You feed them," he says. And at that moment, I'm sure a sense of panic sent in. To the men, sending the crowd away hungry. but maybe enough time to get back to the village made sense. But to Jesus, there was opportunity for something else - a God moment. There was an opportunity to see God move and provide a miracle (similar to Moses and Israel in the desert with no food). Who brought the bread and fish? I'm not sure, but it was a meal for one, not 5000+. When people gather there will be needs. Sometimes, sending them away may be right, but it may also be a way for God to show up and remind everyone who is really leading.

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

I would not be all that excited about having 5000+ hungry folks looking to me (or us) to meet their needs. I am impressed that the disciples were sensitive to look forward and see that there would soon be an issue. That is what leaders do, right? However, to look ahead AND see opportunities for you to show up - that is spiritual leadership. Jesus, and the disciples, didn't cause the crisis. Jesus knew how it wanted it to play out though. I just don't sense any panic in his mannerisms. Again, he leaned into the opportunity instead of trying to get out of it.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root