

Feeding the Crowd
Bible Study for Sunday 2/8/20

First watch and listen to Max Richter's *Mercy*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWrc6ihmaE0>

Now read these passages:

Isaiah 55:1-5

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Matt 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then 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. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

- ❖ Do you feel these readings relate to the video in any way? What words or images strike you from either?
- ❖ What does it mean to you to hear the words 'Jesus had compassion on them'?
- ❖ How does Jesus demonstrate this compassion?
- ❖ What part did the disciples play in Matthew's gospel and what part can we play in this?
- ❖ What do we spend money on which is 'not bread' and how do we 'labour for that which does not satisfy'?
- ❖ What is so different about what Jesus is offering?
- ❖ What gets in the way of you receiving it?

Eularia Clarke: The 5,000



Ethiopian: artist unknown

God of our hopes and dreams,
we are empty, and long to be filled;

we are hungry, and long to be fed;
we are lost, and long to be found.

Gather us into your love, and pick up the pieces of our lives,
just as Jesus gathered up the fragments of the five loaves and two fish
that remained after feeding the five thousand.

Call us anew to eat our fill and to find our true nourishment in Jesus,
the



bread of heaven. Amen.

Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009

