

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(2Kgs.4.42-44, Eph.4.1-6, Jn.6.1-15)

Theme: You can be the Blessing Hand of Jesus today in the lives of others.

Some times in our lives, some of us ask these questions: Does God really know that I exist? Some ask; is God really aware of my situation or my family situation? Is God really aware of what is happening in my life? If yes, is really interested in helping me out of this situation?

Today's gospel message gives answers to all these various questions. As Jesus and his disciples were on the mountain, He looked down and saw a great crowd coming towards him, to hear the Word of Life and to be healed. They were still on the way when Jesus asked Phillip where they can get bread to feed the crowd. These people had not yet reached Him, but Jesus has already started feeling for them, thinking on how to help them. The same feeling Our Lord Jesus is feeling for you and I today. He is aware of that burden in your heart or your family. Through the book of Isaiah (Is. 43:1-4), God tells us that He knows each and every one of us by name. The same way Jesus fed this crowd, the same way He will provide for us in our various times of need.

As Jesus is feeding and providing for us, then in the same way He wants us to make Him present again today and always by feeding and providing for others. Let us remember what Jesus said in the gospel of Matthew, that whenever we feed and provide for those who are in need, we are doing it for Him (Mt.25:31-46). Do not say what have I to share with others? Remember that the feeding of the crowd today was provided by a little boy (five barley loaves and two fish). A few weeks ago I said "Your Junk can be another person's gold." From one of the network news channels few weeks ago we saw what happened somewhere in Canada here, while people were donating their used items and clothing to a Charity Collection bin, many people who were in need of those things were busy taking the items as soon as they were put in the bins. Some not minding the presence of the cameramen.

I want us to understand that many people are hungry today in many parts of the world. From our second reading today (2Kgs.4.42-44) God is asking us through the prophet Elisha to go home today and help those who are in need. Let us always bear in mind that there is joy in sharing. When you are busy thinking on how to feed and help others, God also is thinking on how to bear your own burdens. Let us bear in mind that we can be the blessing "Hand of Jesus" today in the lives of those who are in need.