

Calvary Episcopal Church
Ashland, Kentucky
Sermon for July 29, 2012 ~ Proper 12B
The Reverend Diane Zwick

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight oh Lord.

This meditation was inspired in part from a daily meditation journal called The Word Among Us (July/August 2012)

There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. (John 6:9)

Have you ever noticed that when you bring your gifts to Jesus as this boy did, nothing much seems to happen? They just seem to sit there, undeveloped and underappreciated.

Jesus didn't tell his disciples to sit quietly while he multiplied the loaves. It was time to get to work! And so the disciples organized the people into groups-sitting on the grass. Jesus takes the initiative to feed the hungry. Jesus takes the boy's offering, blesses it, and distributes it to the crowd. Everyone's hunger is satisfied.

So if you want to see your offering to God multiplied, you have an essential role to play. You may not be working the miracle yourself, but you need to get out there and do something. We all have different gifts, different life situations and different opportunities. But one thing is sure: Each of us will have the opportunity to do something important for the kingdom of God.

Thank you for the food that you brought for community kitchen. All of us bringing something will get the job done. There are baskets in the front and back of the church where your food may be placed. If you didn't get a chance to bring food this morning, the baskets will be here all week. Thanks also for your dedication to the children that will be helped by the blessings in a backpack program. Sure – Calvary is proud to be helping these children and we would like to see the program grow. Even though our program may find its way into the newspaper, we are not using it as a marketing tool for new members. Our focus must be on the children. If this congregation is alive with projects to show our love for others – we will not need a marketing tool.

Heavenly Father, sometimes we are not sure where to start. Show us what you would have us do, and how our gifts can bear fruit for your kingdom. Amen