

To Him who is able to do more than we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20) Mdwk Reflection # 57, July 22, 2009

This line from Paul's prayer for the Ephesians has stayed with me this past few weeks as I prepare to speak this coming Sunday on both Eph 3:14-21 and John 6:1-21. The Gospel passage contains two stories which I am seeing as examples of Jesus doing more with his disciples. The first is feeding a hungry crowd of more than 5,000 with a little boys' lunch of loaves and fishes and the second is Jesus coming across the waves to the disciples huddled in their storm tossed little boat. These stories flesh out the promise of Paul's prayer. If we invite Christ into our lives He will do miraculous things in us and He will always come to us and be with us in any storm to reassure us and remind us of his Father's great love for us. I am so grateful for the opportunity to continually study and live in the Gospel accounts in God's Word. I trust that I would do so even if I wasn't preaching, but the discipline of preparing sermons makes it that much easier to stay with the reading and study. I am fortunate that for all of my adult life, in either Young Life ministry or parish ministry, it has been my privilege to have a weekly time of sharing from the gospels to keep me in touch with this most wonderful of spiritual resources. I would encourage you to take some time to read through the beginning (or all, if you have the time) of John chapter six and listen prayerfully to what God wants to give you for your life today from His Word.

Both of these accounts have been meaningful to me in my current medical situation and God has used them to draw me closer to the reality of His great love for me.

Think about the contrast between Phillip and Andrew's response to the need of the hungry crowd. William Barclay in his Daily Study Series points out that Phillip states the problem and no more while Andrew does the practical and useful task of finding the boy with the lunch. While Andrew does not perform the miracle, he certainly sets Jesus up for it by doing all he's humanly capable of and then trusting Christ for the rest. Note also in the second story that the disciples are still rowing the boat, even after Jesus has joined them in the boat. While we trust in "Him who is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us" (Eph 3:20)

We must also continue to "row" and do what is humanly possible to follow Christ's command to love one another as he has loved us and as He has been loved by the Father.

May your week be full of Christ's immeasurably MORE and may your actions bring glory to The Father through the power of God's Spirit within as you walk with Jesus Christ.

Under God's Mercy,

Howie

