

11/1/09 “We Are God’s Stewards” John 6: 4-14

The story of Jesus feeding 5000 is one of the most well known stories in Jesus’ ministry.

One day Jesus was teaching near the Sea of Galilee. 5000 showed up to hear him. Jesus knew they were hungry. So he suggested his disciples that they should feed them.

The disciples were dumbfounded. Feeding that many people would be absolutely impossible. It would cost at least 10,000 dollars. We cannot blame the disciples for their skepticism.

The Gospel of John tells us something that other gospels do not. It reports that a certain young boy offered his lunch to Jesus for the purpose of sharing it with others.

This is truly amazing, for in those days people were hungry all the time. With the exception of rich aristocrats, priests, and scholars of religious laws, ordinary people had to worry about how to put food on the table all the time.

When we think about this, we can understand how extraordinary was the act of this young boy: he gave his entire lunch to share with others.

Perhaps some adults laughed in derision at such a meager offering. We can almost hear them saying, “Come on. Get serious. There are 5000 people here.”

But Jesus accepted graciously the five loaves of bread and two fish and started to give them to the crowd.

In Jesus’ hands, they continued to multiply to feed 5000 to the fullest. Not only that, the leftovers filled twelve baskets.

For JAUC, November is the stewardship month. A steward means a person who serves others.

In Christian context, stewardship means supporting the church, the body of Christ, with money, talent, and time.

Now how does the episode of this generous young boy help us understand Christian stewardship?

JAUC is small in size. The average age of the members is getting older. Its building is in need of repair. In that sense, our church is like the young boy with the five pieces of bread and two fish.

But that should not discourage us. The question at hand is whether we offer what we have to Jesus in faith, trust, and joy. It is this point that the episode of the generous young boy helps us understand so well.

Then, too, let us not forget that Jesus graciously accepted the young boy’s meager lunch and multiplied it to feed 5000. Rest assured. Jesus will accept and multiply our offerings many times over.

So in this stewardship month, let us offer gladly and joyfully our five loaves of bread and two fish.

Through us, Christ will do great things that are beyond our imagination. He will call us “blessed.”

Thanks be to God.

