



You give them something to eat.

Mark 6:37

Reflection:

October 2025

Years ago, at a Jesus Youth Convention, I was with the intercessory ministry, praying in the church while the morning praise and worship were going on. Suddenly, the Youth Coordinator and Animator approached me—the scheduled speaker hadn’t arrived, and they wanted me, a twenty-year-old, to step in. The singing stretched ten more minutes—just enough time for me to whisper a hurried prayer and gather my thoughts. With trembling knees, I walked onto the stage, clinging to one certainty: the same Jesus who multiplied the five loaves of a Galilean boy was now calling me.

How astonished the disciples must have been when Jesus said, “You give them something to eat.” There were five thousand men, not counting the women and children! Their practical solution—to send the crowd into the villages to buy food—had been declined by the Master. And now, without any preparation or resources, how were twelve ordinary men expected to feed such a multitude?

At this stage, Jesus was preparing His disciples to be more than followers—He was forming them into citizens and co-workers in God’s Kingdom. In the Synoptic Gospels, the multiplication of the loaves follows soon after He sent them out in pairs to preach and cast out demons. They had walked with Him, yet perhaps had not grasped the weight of His mission. They may have thought discipleship was simply travelling with the Master and completing small tasks. But Jesus was calling them to something far greater—to be apostles ready to pour out their very lives for God’s people.

The disciples had nothing to offer the crowd physically, and spiritually they were still immature. Yet in the command, “You give them something to eat,” Jesus was stretching them—and stretching us too. If a child with five loaves and two fish could serve God’s Kingdom, what excuse do we have to hold back? The call is not to focus on our lack but to step forward in faith, trusting the Master who holds everything in His hands. Then our eyes open—we begin to see the weary and wandering, the sheep without a shepherd, waiting just beyond the doors before us.

Can you hear Jesus leading His disciples—shifting them from the level of recipients to the level of givers, from being guests at the banquet to becoming the ones who serve it? This is the path of true discipleship: not remaining a believer who only receives blessings, but becoming one who shares them—who pours them out so others may be fed. It is in this transition—from receiving to giving—that we are formed into the very image of Christ.

Why did Jesus ask them to give, knowing they had nothing? He was teaching them how the Kingdom of God works. The bread was His gift, but their hands carried it to the people. In doing so, He shaped their hearts—cultivating generosity and obedience. Their fear came from thinking He expected them to give from their own resources. But the Kingdom is never about us—its source is always God, poured out through our talents, generosity, and obedience.

As pilgrims of hope in this Jubilee Year, and as we look toward the Great Jubilee of Christ’s Resurrection in 2033, we hear His urgent call—to share the Word that alone satisfies the world’s deepest hunger. If we find ourselves walking the broad, comfortable road, this passage awakens us: discipleship never takes the easy path. The Gospel leads us along the narrow way—demanding, yet full of life.

We have received much through the Church and the Jesus Youth movement. But now the hour has come to give rather than to receive. May the Spirit reveal to us that “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

Am I so far from God’s heart that I fail to sense His sorrow—for His children who try to satisfy their hunger in broken cisterns, unaware that their deepest need is truly for Him? It is not enough that I feed only on the Divine Manna, receiving through the disciples God places in my life. His words must also stir me: “You give them something to eat.” This is the call for every Jesus Youth—to receive graciously from God and then to give freely to others, in season and out of season.

- Leo Tom

*Lives in Thrissur with his wife Dona and four children. Insurance surveyor.
Member of the International Formation Team.*