



Parish of Finchampstead and California

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 2 August 2020

Feeding the 5000 (Matthew 14:13-21)

1 The historical event

Jesus had compassion on the people (v14)

- Compassion by healing
- Compassion by teaching
- Compassion by feeding the hungry

2 Jesus' actions recall the Hebrew Scriptures (Christian Old Testament)

- Reminder of God's compassion to the Israelites in the wilderness (manna and quails) - Exodus 16
- Five loaves = Books of the Law (Torah) - the first five books of the OT. Two fish = the main categories of the Hebrew Scriptures (Torah / Prophets)
- Twelve baskets of leftovers = twelve tribes of Israel and Judah = all the people (compare 5000+: a vast multitude)

3 Jesus' actions look forward to Holy Communion

- What is implicit in Matthew is explicit in John - Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6)
- The Last Supper - *Do this in remembrance of me* (1 Corinthians 11:24)
- The importance of Holy Communion to many Christians - the sadness of not being able to take part in the normal way

4 The example of Jesus in our own lives

- A diversion: losing one's way in a wooded heathland; helped back onto the right path by a BT transmitter
- Jesus an even more reliable fixed point - *Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith* (Hebrews 12:1-2)
- Jesus the pioneer - the one who has gone before us and cleared the way
- Jesus the perfect example
- His example of compassion still (not just in history)
 - Comfort and healing for physical and mental illnesses
 - Mediating God's Word, through prayer, the Bible etc
 - Satisfying the hunger of our souls
- We can turn to him for the first time, turn back to him, turn to him time and time again

