

Reflection Saturday Week 5 – 2022

All the gospels show Jesus being in tune with the people he served. Rather than tell them what to think and do, he opened their minds to the presence of God and to the immense love God had for them. This openness and love drew people to him even if they originally came out of curiosity or for some personal healing. Whatever understanding we may seek in the feeding of the 4,000, one thing is clear, Jesus believed that eating together and sharing food was of great importance. It gave people time to talk about Jesus and share their understanding of him and speak about ways in which he had helped them. It allowed them to share questions they had about him, their difficulties with him, who he was and what he had come to do. We would have been helped immensely being a fly on the wall at these conversations. Their reflections would have provided enough *food* for another Gospel! Being in the Decapolis region, this miracle happened with people who were mostly gentiles. The number 7 is linked with the seven days of creation and suggests that Jesus came to feed everyone, both Jew and Gentile alike.

Why worry about the loaves and fishes?

If you say the right words, the wine expands.

If you say them with love

and the felt ferocity of that love

and the felt necessity of that love,

the fish explode into many.

Imagine Jesus, speaking,

and don't worry about what is reality,

or what is plain, or what is mysterious.

If you were there, it was all those things.

If you can imagine it, it is all those things.

Eat, drink, be happy.

Accept the miracle.

Accept, too, each spoken word

spoken with love. Mary Oliver