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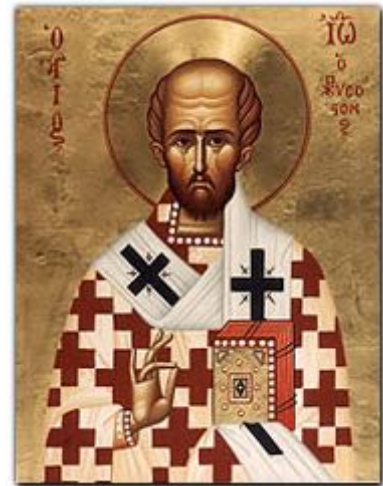
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Feeding The Five Thousand & Feeding The Homeless

by Reverend Presbyter Demetrios Serfes
Boise, Idaho
August 1 2001

More than five thousand men, women, and children came to hear our Gracious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ preach, as He stood on a mountain side, He gave them instructions, as well as gave everyone present great spiritual nourishment. As the day was ending, the Holy Apostles then told Our Lord that they did not have enough food to feed everyone present, and all they had where seven pieces of bread, and two (a few) fishes. The Apostles where indeed very concerned how they could feed everyone present. What I am humbly referring to you is the beautiful Holy Gospel lesson of St. Matthew chapter fifteen: verses 32-38. Take some time now to read this chapter.



Icon of St. John Chrysostom

"God never made some people rich and poor. God gave the earth to everyone. The whole earth belongs to the Lord and fruits on the earth should be available to all." - St. John Chrysostom

The next thing Our Lord asked His Apostles bring Him the seven pieces of bread, and the two fishes to be placed in front of Him, and then a great miracle happen, suddenly as the Holy Apostles witnessed more than seven large baskets where filled with food that was now humbly provided for the more than five thousand men, women, and children. What a blessed miracle! Everyone now would be filled with the blessings of Our Lord, as

more than five thousand men, women, and children had enough to eat!

Every time we notice a homeless person cross our path, some of us make judgments and say that person should get a job, or that that person is either on drugs, or is an alcoholic, so we avoid being ever concerned whether that person had a decent meal! Do proper drug programs exist in our communities? Hardly! Information is available about drugs, but not that many programs exist to deal with this matter! Organizations exist within our communities for alcoholics, but it takes time for an individual to be free from alcohol! All of us know well that not every person who is homeless is an alcoholic or a drug addict.

How many people within our own community are without proper food, and we certainly pray that it's not more than five thousand men, women, or children! We also deny homeless people exist in our own community, and that these numbers are really not more than a few thousand! Local civil governments hardly know how many people are homeless in their communities, but if you walk or drive your car throughout your city you cannot deny they exist, or that we are now seeing more and more homeless men, women, and children! When is the last time we left our subdivisions and sought out to help as Christians those who are homeless, and are hungry?

If we think times are difficult for ourselves, how much more difficult is it for a homeless person?

We need to assist and help the homeless in our communities! Our local Orthodox parish churches should highly consider feeding the homeless at one of the local shelters every two months. Remember the homeless just do not eat just during the holidays!

We should set up programs with our local parish priest to collect food in donations for the homeless in our local community, as well as seek out donations to cook a nourished meal in your parish kitchen, and then take this cooked food to the homeless shelter. Just think you are nourishing

many who shall not forget this great Christian kindness, as the virtues of love for others really shines when we care for those who hungry!

Get the youth of your parish involved also, ask them to bake some cookies, and also ask them to go to the local shelters in serving the homeless.

Ask the members of your choir to help serve these meals, and even the members of your parish council.

Help the homeless, and feed them with your great Christian heart!

The miracle of feeding five thousand men, women, and children would indeed then come true for us all!

God Bless You!

Peace Be Unto Your Soul!

Humbly In Christ Our Lord,
+Reverend Presbyter Demetrios Serfes
Who prays for you and with you!
August 2001

Content written/compiled by [Father Demetrios Serfes](#).
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