

The gospel reading today is the familiar story of the multiplication of loaves and fishes. At first I wondered how in the world I was going to connect this story to the season of advent. But the more I read and prayed about it, my message became clear. This is a story about giving.

The people had been with Jesus for three days and had not eaten. Jesus saw their hunger and was moved with pity. He took what little the crowd had and he provided for them...and he provided for them abundantly.

God always knows our needs, and He is always ready to provide, and provide abundantly. His invitation to us is to trust in Him, even when we hunger and our situation looks bleak.

During the Season of Advent, we prepare for the greatest gift of all. God saw a world hungry for meaning and for union with Him. He knew our need for salvation, was moved with pity, and he gave abundantly. He gave us his only son; the savior for the world.

As we move toward Christmas, may we remember that it's not about the presents, or the decorations, or the travel, or the big meal. It's about the gift of salvation that the Father offers to everyone. We are encouraged to be open and to accept a personal relationship with Him.