

Spiritually Speaking

He took it and multiplied it

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph

Today's readings invite us to reflect: Have I a hunger for the word of God, sure that He will satisfy my need as He fed the five thousand in the wilderness out of nothing? Do we feel any active solidarity for such people who experience spiritual hunger for the Word of God?

The Second Book of Kings (4: 42-44) speaks of the Prophet Elisha, who lived in the ninth century B.C., the successor of the mighty prophet Elijah. Today's Elisha story takes place during a time of famine. The people bring some food for the prophet, the man of God, but the prophet directs the food be given to the people instead. There are a huge number of people, and so his servant hesitates to take the meager food to the people. The food used is bread, and the servant protests that the task is impossible, yet the prophet insists, and a large number of people are fed with a small amount of food, and, in fact, food is left over. The bread was the bread of the first-fruits, which was meant to be offered to God. But instead of offering it to God, Elisha gives it to the people. The miraculous food is a sign of God's concern for His people. The leftovers stress God's generosity.

In Paul's Letter to the Ephesians (4: 1-6), Paul pleads with the Ephesians to live a life in keeping with the Gospel, placing special emphasis on the need for unity and harmony. We have to do everything possible to preserve the unity of spirit among us by our words and/or deeds. Paul further emphasizes that there is one body, one spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all. This oneness of faith should lead us to share all we have with others so that we might witness to our faith in action.

The Gospel reading from John (6: 1-15) narrates the faithful, merciful and compassionate heart of the Lord as He feeds the hungry and needy. (Many of us may not have experienced physical hunger, but there are many people in the world who are dying of hunger and malnutrition at this very moment.) Jesus, "the new Elisha," replicates the miracle of Elisha. He feeds more than five thousand people with just five loaves of bread and two fishes. John tells us that the crowds were huge – about five thousand men, with perhaps double the number of women and children. Jesus says to Phillip, "What are we going to do? How are we going to feed them?" Jesus knew what He was going to do but He is testing His disciples. Phillip, with his calculating mind, is working out the solution: "You just buy the food, but where are you going to get so much food in this place? Just one piece of bread for each one would probably cost hundreds of denarii. How are we going to manage?" Andrew, with a practical bent of mind, suggests a solution: a boy with five loaves of bread and two fishes. But what use is that for this large crowd? Jesus is ready to take the little that is offered by the boy and work with it. He is not asking for huge resources beyond our means, but He seeks generous people who are ready to share the little they have. Jesus asks His disciples to divide and share the bread with the multitude, and as they break bread and share, more and more is available until everyone has more than enough. Jesus then says, "Please collect the leftovers," and they collect twelve basketsful. Jesus must have given them to the little boy; after all it was his bread and his fish that made it all possible.

Why was Jesus interested in the leftovers? Wasn't the big happening all that mattered? Jesus is also the God of small things. Every small detail counts in God's eyes. Jesus needs what we can bring Him, even if not much. Little is always much in the hands of Christ. The miracle continues through us every time we give ourselves in faith to the Lord. He takes our limited resources, blesses them, multiplies them and distributes them to His people, and paradoxically, we still find more left over for ourselves – either in psychic satisfaction, a sense of fulfillment, or inner peace. The right question to ask of the Lord is not, "Where shall we find this or that?" Instead, we should ask, "What is it I have that you want to multiply?"



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Chamber Chatter

Willow Creek Farmer's Market runs each Thursday through September 2 from 4-7 p.m. at the Heppner City Park. Cost for the entire season for vendors is \$50 or by the week at \$10 per week. Check out the Facebook page, email willowcreekfm@gmail.com or call 541-720-4399 or 757-285-5792 for additional information.

Benefit Fundraiser to help Mary Riggs will be held July 21 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Lodge.

A benefit dinner for Brian Rystedt will be held July 31 at the Heppner Elks Lodge, featuring a toco dinner, bingo and a raffle. Doors open at 4 p.m. with dinner at 5 and bingo at 6. Dinner will be \$10 per plate or by donation. Donations for bingo prizes and raffle items are requested. Contact Rhonda Acock at 541-571-1584, Tonja Lemmon at 541-561-8953, Mike

Aldritt at 541-571-1367 or Michael Haugen, 541-314-5434 to donate or for additional information.

August 1 is the deadline for applications for the 2021 culturally based activities in Morrow County. Projects supported in the past have included quilting, art displays, historical library books, cultural entertainment and events, kids' activities in the parks and schools, drama and musical workshops. Grants can be awarded up to 50 percent of the total project cost. For complete guidelines and application forms, please contact Jaylene Papineau at 541-676-5630, email jpapineau@co.morrow.or.us or visit the Morrow County website under the Clerk/Elections Office, Morrow County Cultural Coalition Information.

Friday, August 6 from 5-10 p.m., Murray's Annual Wine Tasting Event at the Willow Creek Fit Park.

Live entertainment will be provided by Joe Lindsay from 5-7 p.m. and Brady Goss from 7-10 p.m.

Sunday, August 8 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Music in the Park at the Heppner City Park will feature a return of La Grande's Wasteland Kings. Hopeful Saints will be offering food for purchase by donation to their Mission and Outreach fund. August 13 Wheatland Insurance will hold an open house, with additional information to be provided at a later date.

August 17-22 the Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo will be held. The theme this year is "Morrow County Strong." The parade will take place on Saturday, August 21 at 10 a.m. Those who are interested in being in the parade should contact the Heppner Chamber at heppnerchamber@gmail.com or 541-676-5536. The

Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo, NPRA sanctioned rodeo, will be held August 19 and 20 at 7 p.m. and the MOCO jackpot on August 22 at 1 p.m.

Sunday, September 12 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Music in the Park at Heppner City Park featuring Chasing Ebenezer, a Portland musical group. Hopeful Saints will be offering food for purchase by donation to their Mission and Outreach fund.

September 18 and 19, Blue Mountain Century Scenic Bikeway ride. Registration and waivers are available at the chamber office or on the chamber website. Contact the chamber at 541-676-5536 to guarantee a spot as the ride will be limited to 100 riders. The Blue Mountain Century Bikeway is a scenic loop of approximately 108 miles beginning and ending in Heppner.

Suspects arrested after theft, pursuit



Lawrence Allen Perrin

Three suspects were apprehended and arrested after a theft which led to a pursuit. Lawrence Allen Perrin, 45, Irrigon, was charged with Theft II, Criminal Trespass II and Attempt to Elude (Felony). His total bail is \$16,000. Maria Anita Price, 37, and Jonathan James Price, 39, both of Hermiston were

charged with Theft II and Criminal Trespass II with bail set at \$6,000 each.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office Communication Center received a 911 call on July 19 at approximately 8:30 p.m. reporting that the caller believed someone just stole items from his scrapyard. He told dispatch that he was in his vehicle on Three Mile Canyon Road heading north toward I-84, following the suspected thieves. He indicated the suspects were in a gray SUV pulling a small utility trailer.

Sgt. Nathen Braun and Deputy Dalton Garcia immediately responded to the area and located the suspects traveling on the backroads south of the Boardman area. A pursuit was called at 8:38pm as the

suspects continued on backroads and fields at speeds up to 70 mph. The trailer lost its tires and was throwing sparks, so Boardman Fire was put on standby. As the sparks were flying and items bounced out of the trailer, the suspects still refused to stop. They traveled Tower Road, Kunze Road, Parkside, Summit Lane, back north on Parkside, where the suspect vehicle ran a pickup off the road near Ridgecrest. Then across Kunze, through fields and came out on River Ridge to Wilson Lane, proceeded west on Wilson Lane, passing several motorists and pedestrians. The SUV continued to Toms

Camp, south to Kunze and east crossing Tower Road. They proceeded to the east end of Boardman Airport, then south through Three Mile Canyon Farms and around crop circles. The suspects finally stopped when they lost a tire on the SUV. A felony stop was conducted on the occupants of the vehicle at 9:03pm. All three suspects were taken into custody without further incident and lodged in the Umatilla County Jail.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) reported that no one was injured during the incident and no fires were started as a result of the suspects' reckless behavior.



I WANT YOUR STORY!

Do you have a community project?
Have you started a new, interesting hobby or business?
Have you or someone you know hit a significant milestone?
Is there something you feel needs to be shared with the community?
I want your story! I would love to share it with the Heppner Gazette-Times' readers!

Contact Giselle
Call or text cell# 541-914-2157
(PLEASE leave a message if I don't answer!)
office# 676-9228
email graphics@rapidservice.net

Ione School District #2 WE ARE HIRING!

Licensed:
AG Teacher, Secondary Math Teacher, PE Teacher, Part Time Preschool Teacher

Classified:
Head of Maintenance

For application instructions please visit
<https://intermountain.tedk12.com/hire>

Kids! Join Us!

Summer Fun Day! July 25th 12:00-3:00pm Ione Community Church!

Jesus Games Food Fun!






**Lunch will be provided
Kids and their families welcome!**

Contact Gus Peterson
augustofarmer@gmail.com or (509)438-5796

Save the Date! New Venue!

MURRAY'S ANNUAL BEER & WINE TASTING

SUMMER EVENT 6 AUG FRIDAY

6PM-10PM



©WILLOW CREEK
PARK DISTRICT
field next to pool



MUSIC BY BRADY GOSS + JOE LINDSAY & FAMILY

BBQ Pulled Pork dinner provided by Upper Place Concessions!
\$10

Bring a lawn chair or blanket!

Bring the whole family! "First Friday" will be going on at this location! Pool will be open!

Ione Community Church

470 E Main Street, Ione


Summer worship at 10:00 AM
Sunday Mornings



"You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:13
Join Us in the Search

Celebration of Life Shannon LuAnn Boor



July 29, 2021
6:00 p.m.
Heppner Elementary Gym

Benefit Fundraiser Fabric SALE

Wednesday, July 21
11am - 7pm
Heppner Elks Lodge
Proceeds to help Mary Riggs

LOTS OF FABRIC! Precuts, Scraps, Fabric on bolts, Fabric yardage (solids, calicos, vintage, outdoor, camo, western, batiks, polka dots, Christmas, panels), Unfinished Projects, More... \$1 & \$2/yard
SEWING SUPPLIES! Sewing machines, Bobbins, Thread, Cutting Mats, Misc.

EVERYTHING MUST GO!

Questions?
Call Nancy Arnsen 509-760-2291