**Thought of the day based on Johns Gospel Chapter 6 Verses 1-21**

**By Judith Rowe on 25th July 2021**

**I am sure many of us at sometimes in our lives have felt we were unable to feed our family, but not many of us would be faced with the problem that Jesus had.**

**Coupled with the fact they had nowhere near the amount of money they needed to feed 5,000. Some challenge.**

**When you start to unravel these parables the meaning and message behind them tells you so much more.**

**What I have unpicked in this parable is to share what we have with each other.**

**Food is the source of life. Most of us in the western world are usually quite comfortably off but are we. Look around in our cities and our towns and see how the need for Food Banks has become a necessity. To many people the need to go to a food bank is an embarrassment as no one likes to declare they have not got enough food to feed their families. Most adults will go without, so their children are fed.**

**A lesson can also be learnt from this gospel reading is how Jesus realised the need not to waste any food. How appalled are we when we see the tons of food that is thrown away? Can you imagine what Jesus would have thought if he were here today. To throw good food away whilst others in our country and in the world starve is a crime.**

**How to stop it is going to take an awful long time. For too long in the western world we have grown used to fast food takeaways. Have you ever looked at the queue of cars surrounding McDonalds or KFC and tutted to yourself, they should be at home making a sandwich? But it is not that easy to change our eating habits.**

**A few years ago, Dave and I went on a trek around Morocco going away from the glamourous City of life in Casablanca and way into the high Atlas Mountains. On one day we were walking, and the children come out and followed us. They were shabbily dressed in ill matching clothing and shoes, and they were after anything we had to offer them. Maybe some cynics would think that they did this on a regular basis. But for me and the rest of our party of 8 it was a real eye opener. Offering these children our lunch and water has stayed with me We were discussing in our Bible Study Group the things we are passionate about and nearly all the group agreed it is about the inequality between the world The rich and the incredibly poor. And the environment. Again, what would Jesus have thought. He would be shaking his head in disbelief, how has it come to this.**

**In our own lives we try to help people who are worse off than us. Through Christian Aid. /Water Aid and more local collections of clothing and toiletries for Refugee’s, And donation of Food to the Basement Project and St Basils. Within all these organisations and many more is a need for all of us to share more of what we have. Do we really need a cupboard full of tinned good as a just in case? If ever there is a just in case well the local coop is always open So, no we don’t need them but someone in our town might.**

**Jesus never wanted any recognition, as the gospel reading tells us he retreated to the mountains when he learnt he was to be taken by force to be made king.**

**Most people who help others often do it quietly not wishing to stand out or be recognised. Compare this sometimes to the wealthier people who use the media to promote everything they do. Marcus Rashford although a famous footballer now came from humble beginnings and turned around the government’s decision and enabled free dinners for children during the holiday.**

**In all the gospel stories of Jesus there is an element of doubt, has to how did he do that.**

**I always believe that what we see which was written down or word of mouth is a perception of what happened. It is to illustrate that if you have faith in God anything can happen. Maybe not immediately but at sometimes you can look back and think We made a difference. Whatever that difference is however small can maybe make an almighty change to someone’s life amen.**

**Through this pandemic life has changed, and New Normal has to start.**

**Where to begin, meet friends at Church together not apart.**

**We have had time to think about the world and ways in which we act.**

**Fresh challenges change too our way of life and how we all react.**

**Jesus spread a word of love to everyone along the paths he walked.**

**The rich the poor the unclean folk he stopped and to them talked.**

**They were amazed that this poor man had time for them at all.**

**So, we ourselves must be the same don’t hesitate to follow that call.**

**Strive as much and pray to God that all on earth are fed.**

**Those with too much must not ignore the hollow bodies of the dead.**

**Amen**