



**DAILY LENTEN  
DEVOTIONAL  
FROM MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021**

**A scripture passage offered  
for this day's Lenten contemplation,  
and a brief question for spiritual reflection**

After reading the scripture passage, I suggest *alectio divina* approach:

1. re-reading the passage, noticing words or thoughts that stand out to you;
2. then re-reading it again, and sitting in silence with it for a few minutes;
3. then deciding whether to engage with the question for reflection that follows. That may help to prevent the question itself from becoming merely a trite lens through which the scripture passage appears smaller and less consequential than it is.

*K.G.*

**10th Day of Lent – Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021**

**John 6:5-15**

When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.”

Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

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### **Ignatian Spiritual Exercise**

**Among the spiritual exercises of Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) was to bring the five senses to our contemplation of the gospels. Looking at the gospel reading above, first, see** the scene "with the sight of the imagination, meditating and contemplating in particular the details." **Second**, imagine what the people in the scene are saying. What do they **sound** like? **Third**: what are the **fragrances** in the air? "O taste and see" (Psalm 34:8): is the sense of **taste** part of this scene? **Imagine** and linger over it. **Fourth**, what do objects in the scene feel like to **touch**? What does it feel like where the people put their feet or sit?

Now situated in that scene, what would you want to ask or say to Jesus? **(IL)**

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#### **ABBREVIATIONS (Sources of questions for reflection)**

**CF** Charles de Foucauld, "O Beloved Bridegroom," in Foucauld, *Essential Writings* (Ellsberg, ed. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1999), 37

**FB** Frederick Buechner, "Lent," in Buechner, *Whistling in the Dark* (HarperSanFrancisco, 1988), 74-75

**IL** Ignatius of Loyola, *Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius* (trans. Mottola. New York: Doubleday, 1989), 54-59

**JOD** John O'Donohue, "At the End of the Day: A Mirror of Questions," in O'Donohue, *To Bless the Space Between Us* (New York: Doubleday, 2008), 98

**LK** Linda Kranz, *Through My Eyes: A Journal for Teens* (Flagstaff, AZ: Rising Moon, 1998)

**MO** Mary Oliver, "Six Recognitions of The Lord (5)," in Oliver, *Devotions* (Penguin Publishing Group, Kindle Edition), 127

**MW** Macrina Wiederkehr, "The Prayer of the Empty Water Jar," in Wiederkehr, *Seasons of Your Heart* (New York: HarperCollins, 1991), 32-33

**SB** Coleman, et. al., eds., *The NIV Serendipity Bible* (Zondervan, 1989)