

A football in my hands is worth \$30. A football in Patrick Mahomes' hands is worth \$140K. It depends whose hands it's in. A microphone in my hands is worth \$100. A microphone in Taylor Swift's hands is worth \$700M. It depends whose hands it's in. A computer in my hands is worth \$1000. A computer in Bill Gate's hands is worth \$75B. It depends whose hands it's in. Two fish and five loaves in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches. Two fish and five loaves in God's hands feed thousands. It depends whose hands it's in. Nails in my hands produce a birdhouse. Nails in Jesus' hands produce salvation. It depends whose hands it's in. We should put our worries, fears, hopes, dreams, family, and friends in Jesus' hands because it depends on whose hands they're in.

Jesus heard about the murder of his cousin John the Baptist at the hands of King Herod. It's quite reasonable that the Lord needed to take time away, in a deserted place, to grieve so He gets into a boat to get away from the crowd. The crowd can see immediately where He's headed and when Jesus gets off the boat and steps onto the shore, the crowd is there waiting for Him. Jesus' heart was moved by pity and He begins to heal the sick. At evening, the disciples approach Jesus and said, "This is a deserted place, dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food." What they meant was there were a lot of people and not enough food to go around. The disciples looked around and saw problems. Jesus had the ability to look past the problems and see opportunity. "There's no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves" and the disciples' response echoes throughout the centuries, "Lord, we don't have enough!" In our hands, all we have are a couple of fish sandwiches. In Jesus' hands, look what happens! Jesus takes the five loaves and two fish, said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples who in turn gave them to the crowds. Notice that Jesus passes on His grace to those He calls disciples, and then commands the disciples to mediate this grace to the masses. Everyone ate and were satisfied. Notice that they didn't leave fragments on the ground or throw anything away. They picked up the fragments like we do after Communion? We place those fragments in the tabernacle. Why? Because Jesus didn't feed the crowd bread in that deserted place? The multiplication of the loaves is a dramatic foreshadowing of the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. God wants to feed His people with His very self. Jesus knew the multitudes followed Him out into a deserted place, not because they were physically hungry, but because they were spiritually hungry. We all know that there's a hunger within us that normal food can't satisfy. We have spiritual cravings that can't be filled with anything this world has to offer and we have a nasty habit of filling that hungry place with everything that doesn't satisfy. Like the prophet Isaiah notices, we spend our wages on things that fail to satisfy. Like St. Augustine noticed, our hearts are restless until they rest in God. St. Teresa of Avila observed, whoever has God lacks nothing, God alone suffices. Have you ever found yourself in desolation looking for the Lord? St. Paul describes that desolate place as anguish, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, and the sword. In moments of desolation, have you ever asked Isaiah's question, "Why spend your wages for what fails to satisfy?" Hear the invitation to come to the water and place ourselves in Jesus' hands.

Look at your hands. They can do so much good and so much evil. What would happen if we understood that in the Eucharist, our hands are now Christ's hands? Will this make a difference in my relationships, how I work, how I budget, how I treat those in need, how I treat myself? When these hands cooperate with grace, we transform our lives and our world.