

Let Us Be Bread Words and music by Thomas Porter

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Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, broken and shared, life for the world.
Let us be wine, love freely poured. Let us be one in the Lord.

Matthew 14:15-21 *“Toward evening the disciples approached Him. ‘We’re out of in the country and it’s getting late. Dismiss the people so they can go to the villages and get some supper.’ But Jesus said, ‘There is no need to dismiss them. You give them supper.’ ‘All we have are five loaves of bread and 2 fish,’ they said. Jesus said, ‘Bring them here.’ Then He had the people sit on the grass. He took the five loaves and two fish, lifted His face to heaven in prayer, blessed, broke, and gave the food to the congregation. They all ate their fill. They gathered twelve baskets of leftovers. About 5000 were fed.”* The Message¹

Matthew 26:26-28 *“In the middle of the meal Jesus took a loaf and after blessing it He broke it into pieces and gave it to the disciples. ‘Take and eat this,’ He said, ‘it is my body.’ Then He took a cup and after thanking God, He gave it to them with the words, ‘Drink this, all of you, for it is my blood, the blood of the new agreement shed to set many free from their sins.’”*

J B Phillips New Testament²

Why does Jesus offer the bread to God and bless it before giving it out? Do you think it would have had the same effect, the same capabilities if He hadn't done that? Why?

What does the breaking of the bread signify to you in the feeding of the 5000?
At the final supper Jesus shared with His disciples?

How do you feel about being “blessed by the Lord, broken and shared”? Do you think it's necessary? Why do you feel that way?
Do you think we would have the same capabilities, the same impact if we aren't? Why?

How can we be “life for the world”? List some concrete steps you can take.

Do you feel like you can be “love freely poured”? If not, what do you think is interfering? Offer your concerns, your hesitations to God. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts and actions so you can be more open to being used to share the love Jesus so freely gives us.

These days it seems harder to “be one in the Lord”. What value do you see in being together in Christ? Are you willing to work toward this goal? In what way?

Where do you see obstructions to our joining together in Christ? Do some of these feel insurmountable? Why do you feel that way? Take some time to examine those feelings through the lens of God’s creating love, and look to the guiding love of the Holy Spirit to show you a way through.

*Because there is one loaf, our many-ness becomes one-ness –
Christ doesn’t become fragmented in us. Rather we become unified in Him.
We don’t reduce Christ to what we are: He raises us to what He is.*
1 Corinthians 10:17 The Message¹

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