

GOSPEL PEARLS

Fruit of the earth and the work of man

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24_04_2020



Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee.

A large crowd followed him,

because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick.

Jesus went up on the mountain,

and there he sat down with his disciples.

The Jewish feast of Passover was near.

When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him,

he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?"

He said this to test him,

(John 6: 1-15)

Indeed, bread is the product of human work. Yet we often tend to forget that if God didn't help seeds take root and allow for rain all our work would be in vain. This is why the priest at the Mass's offertory prayer says bread is "fruit of the earth and of the work of human hands" implying that the earth is secondary cause, while God is the primary cause of everything that is produced from the earth. May we always trust the Lord so that we are never lacking neither earthly nor heavenly bread.