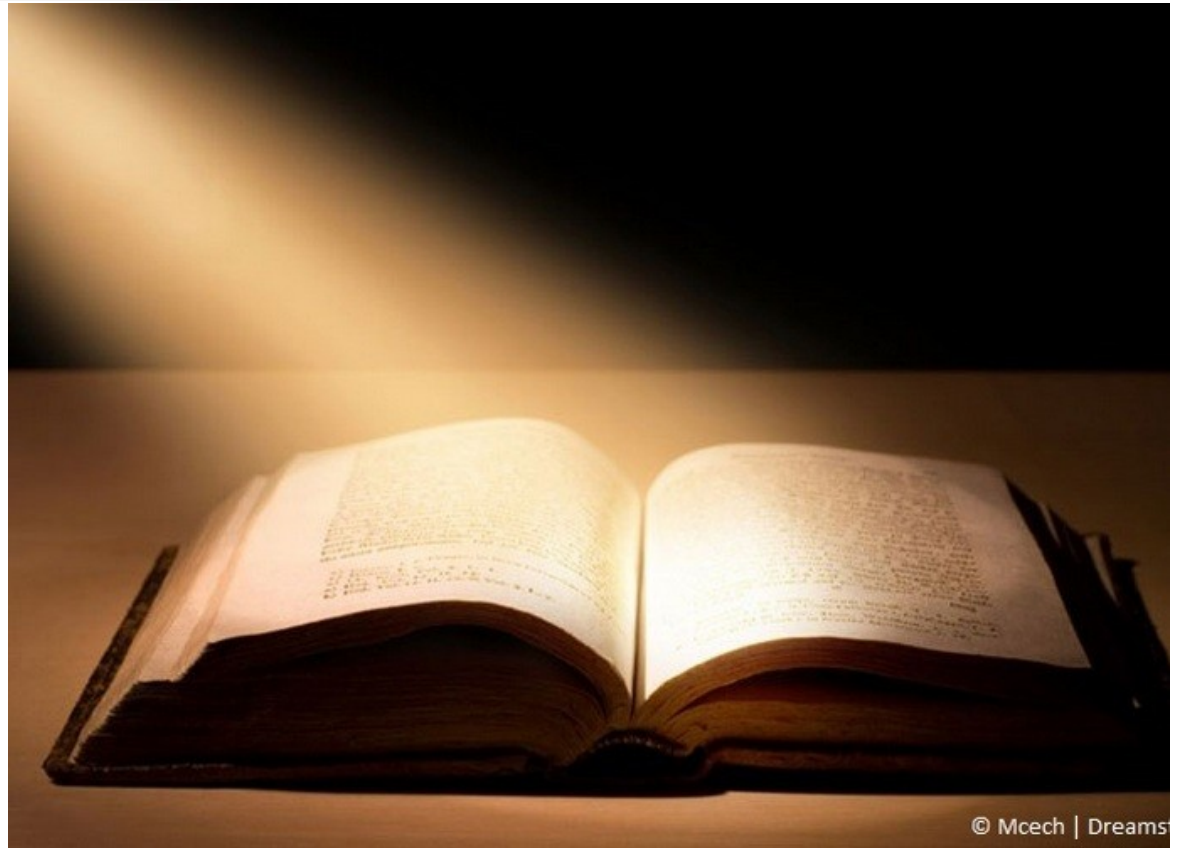


GOSPEL PEARLS

Not all the hungry are satisfied

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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, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days

'wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people recline." Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." (Jn 6, 1-15)

Jesus withdraws when He is sought by people only to solve their material needs. This is not why He came into the world. During His life on earth, He did not heal all the sick, satisfy all the hungry or free all the possessed. Evidently this was not His main mission, just as it is not that of His disciples. The miracles performed by Jesus were signs that showed that He was the Son of God, that is, God Himself. The important thing is to trust the Gospel with the same faith that allows us to firmly believe that Jesus is present in the Eucharist and comes within us.