

# Opening Reflections for Committees: March 2018

Witness and Fellowship Ministry Team

## Meditation for Lent

*Therefore, when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. (John 6:15)*

This Lenten season, let's give up trying to make Jesus King. Let's give up making Him Lord or supposing Him to be some sort of God that fits our image, our ideas, our notions. Best King ever! We'll never go hungry! Free fish sandwiches whenever we want! That's what the crowds thought, so Jesus went away. Because that's not the kind of king He came to be.

Jesus feeds the five thousand to demonstrate that God will take care of the things of this body and life, so you don't have to worry about them. Daily bread? He's got that covered. Jesus would have us trust in Him for all things, not just food and the stuff of this life that we need.

For His kingdom is not of this world. It's not a kingdom of armies and borders and taxes and trade. It's a kingdom of forgiveness, righteousness, holiness, and peace with God. Jesus isn't a King who wears a gold crown and rules with an iron fist. He is a King who is crowned with thorns and rules with the forgiveness of sins, by which he brings sinners into His kingdom. His is the kingdom of the cross, of suffering and death to save sinners, and of resurrection to life. His kingdom is seen in its earthly outposts: His Church, where the Spirit gathers sinners to hear Christ's Word, be washed and fed, and receive and live in His forgiveness.

When Jesus saw those five thousand, He already knew what He was going to do: feed them. When He came into this world, He already knew why: to save sinners. This is not a fly-by-night-dictator who makes things up as he goes along. This is the Lord of heaven and earth whose kingdom comes to us through His Word and in whose kingdom, we have everlasting righteousness and peace.

**Prayer:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we implore You that we, who do worthily deserve to be punished for our evil deeds, may mercifully be relieved by the comfort of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen