

Devotional Blog

Sunday 2nd August 2020

Over the last couple of weeks or so there has been a lot of talk about the fact that a large proportion of our population is carrying excess weight. Being overweight not only puts a strain on an individual's body, but is also causing an extra burden on the NHS, which is already stretched to the limit.

The government is currently trying to encourage all of us to take more exercise and eat more healthily. To help with this supermarkets and other food outlets are being asked to stop the "buy one get one free" offers on a range of less healthy products.

The trouble is, we all like a bargain, so when we see our favourite packet of biscuits reduced, we take advantage of the offer and buy an extra packet!! We very rarely see such offers on fruit and vegetables!!

Most of us are very fortunate because we have a vast selection of foods in our shops and it can be very easy to go overboard sometimes. In fact, when I see some of the supermarket trolleys leaving the store, full to overflowing, especially at Christmas time, I wonder if those pushing the trolley are planning to feed the five thousand.

Jesus, we are told in Matthew 14:13-21 fed five thousand men, plus women and children from five loaves of bread and two fish!! We are also told that everyone ate until they were full and there were twelve baskets of left overs. Now I know my grandmother used to make food stretch along way, but I think she would have struggled to feed that lot!!

While most of us can afford to feed ourselves and our families well, some in our society, including Hampton, the weekly trip to the supermarket is only something they can dream about. Instead they must visit the local foodbank to enable them to be able to feed themselves and their families.

Just the essentials are given out free of charge, to those in need. The supplies have largely given by individual donations, as well as some local businesses chipping in.

The prophet Isaiah exalts the Israelite nation, who were returning from exile: -
“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come buy and eat!! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost” (Isaiah55:1). This was not some sort of early foodbank! This was an invitation to those who were spiritually hungry and thirsty.

Note, it was not just the basics that were on offer, but more luxurious items, such as wine and milk and it was all free. It was God’s gift to His people. Jesus described himself as “The bread of life” (John 6:35) He goes on to say, he who comes to me will never go hungry and he who believes in me will never be thirsty”

When we are finally able open our doors to those who are “thirsty and hungry” in our communities, what will we have to offer?

Amen

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