

Pastor Geoffrey R. Boyle
Grace-Trinity Lutheran Churches, Wichita, KS
22 July 2012
8th Sunday after Pentecost

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit

Math wasn't our Lord's subject.
He always ended up with a miscalculation; always more than enough.

In His division of 5 loaves and 2 fish over about 5,000 people—
where we would run for the scale, weighing out an ounce and a half of bread and a ¼
ounce of fish, giving to each saying, "That's enough for you—"
our Lord keeps on giving—so much so, that even the last and biggest stomach was full!

They all ate, all were satisfied.
None needed to take from another, or rush or beg or fight—
there was plenty to go around, more than enough, 12 baskets-full left over.

With Jesus, there's no simple calculation.
It's never this for that,
you've got this much hunger, then you'll get that much food,
or we've got this many loaves and that many fish, so you get this amount and no more.

And more importantly yet, it's never: you've got this much sin, so you get that much forgiveness.

With Jesus the math is always a bit off—
there's always more than enough,
more than you need,
more than you keep inside your cup; it overflows.

He keeps on giving, so that all thought of calculating what's fair or rightly yours is left behind.
All you have is Him going on and giving, more and more and more left over.

That's Jesus.

And that hands that took up these 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish,
the hands that blessed them before this great meal,
the hands that gave out this bread as a gift, a miraculous gift, a more-than-enough gift,
are the hands also of Calvary, the hands bearing the marks of the nails,
the hands that flowed with blood.

Calvary also was unfair.
The math wasn't quite right.
The sinless one, was credited with the sins of the whole world.
And all the sinners of the world, were credited with the righteousness of this one Man.
The cross, the death of this Jesus happened so that you wouldn't receive what's fair.

Jesus didn't get out his calculator while walking to the cross.
He didn't do one last tally to see who's in and who's out, who's sins are great, and who's aren't.

Our Lord did the whole bit just for you.
 His love didn't count the cost.
 There were no measurements, no scales, no counting, no math.

Just Jesus for you.

And the blood that poured out of His hands that day—
 the giving hands—
 is the same blood those hands give out today.

There aren't 5,000 gathered in this room right now,
 but there are well over 5,000 receiving this 1 body today.

With Jesus there's always more, more giving, more feeding, more nourishment, more life.
 With Jesus the math's always just a bit off—
 His forgiveness comes more than we'd expect,
 more than we deserve,
 more than what's fair.

And whatever is yours, whatever you have—
 whatever calculations you may have made,
 whatever works you've done,
 whatever thoughts or decisions you've had—
 they're never enough.
 They're simply 5 loaves and 2 fish.
 And that's no way to feed all those who are hungry.

But placed into our Lord Jesus' hands,
 into His giving hands, His bloody hands, His forgiving hands,
 they very quickly become more than enough.

With this Jesus—who's math isn't all that great, and who doesn't calculate what's fair or rightly
 yours—you'll see this miracle today again and again.

You'll see the sins you thought were too heavy being lifted.
 You'll see the stain you thought too hard to remove wiped away.
 You'll see the math, the measurements, the calculations all just a bit off—
 because with Christ there's always more than enough.

He's the Good Shepherd, who feeds us beside still waters, who restores our soul, who fills our
 cup so that it runs over.

All of this comes not from calculating what we deserve or what's right,
 but from His love, His mercy, His compassion.

And this feeding takes place wherever Jesus happens to be.

Wherever the Gospel is dished out,
wherever sins are forgiven,
wherever the cross is preached and blood that flowed from it is given out.

Jesus is here again today.

He's left His algebra at home, but His hands are here for you.
And they're not gonna leave you without satisfying you and giving you more than enough.

Oh, and there's more left-over.

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit