EIBC Devotional #25 - "Gratitude"
Emerald Isle Baptist Church
Pastor Zach Emory

Scripture - John 6:10-14

[10] Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place; so the men sat down, in number about five thousand. [11] Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. [12] And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, that nothing may be lost." [13] So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. [14] When the people saw the sign which he had done, they said, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world!"

Could you imagine being one of those five thousand individuals sitting in that grassy field? You have just listened to some of the most wondrous teaching you have ever heard, but now you can no longer ignore your hunger pangs. There is nowhere to get food, the multitude of people are getting restless, and chatter about the situation is getting louder. And then, in the near distance, you see a soft flash of light as Jesus of Nazareth holds up a fish and loaf of bread, murmurs a prayer, and multiplies it in front of your eyes. The disciples serve plenty of food to the crowd, so much so that there are twelve baskets leftover. How would you feel if you saw a miracle such as that? The word that comes to my mind is "abundance." Those people watched a man multiply matter in front of their very eyes, and they ate until they had their fill and then some. There is no scarcity in a Being like that. Imagine lying down in a soft patch of grass after that experience, mind and belly fed by the Living God Himself, before drifting softly to sleep. It is probably a feeling similar to that of lying down for a nap after a big Thanksgiving Day meal with family and friends. Utter contentment. That is what Jesus offers.

Questions for Reflection

What are some of your current needs you are waiting on God to meet?

How might you remember that God is a God of abundance?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, thank You for providing for me so that I may not be hungry. Feed my mind and my body with good things, in Your name. *Amen*.