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Moral Theology Haiku

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built if the girls had not been put in a situation to receive the gifts of these women.

Most of us, particularly in America, pride ourselves on our ability to provide for ourselves and not need the charity of others. We could have quite easily crossed the border, gone to the nearest Wal-Mart and purchased our own clothes, but instead we learned how to receive. The small gifts of used sneakers, pants, and sweatshirts were catalysts for a week of giftedness. Our time in Mexico, while short, was an incredibly meaningful week of living in community together. We got to know women who were a profound example of what it meant to risk and offer despite the innumerable obstacles they faced. Despite the fact that the men of their community and their government were unsupportive and even hostile to them. Despite the fact that many of the people just twenty miles across the border in the United States would label them as a problem and burden, blinded to the important, irreplaceable gifts they were offering.

And so we must ask ourselves, how are we the disciples? When do we come from a privileged place, working from a place of power where we do not have to accept the gifts and offerings from others? When do we not allow others the freedom to give because it is hard to receive? Or when do we, so practical and educated, see what others are offering and see it as way too little, like Andrew? When, by our own power, are we blinded to the power of

Christ working through the one giving and the gift itself?

Perhaps we could spend some time asking ourselves when we need to be like the little boy. When do we need to risk? When do we need to offer our gifts even when we might think they are too little? How are we to live in a manner worthy of our call? And when do we act as the disciples? When do we blind ourselves to the other? Particularly in our faith, when do we act in pride, because of our knowledge or perceived closeness to God as Jesus' disciples? When in our lives are people offering us their gifts, their unique and beautiful offerings and we are blind to them or outright reject them?

And most importantly, how can we live recognizing the power of Jesus? That while our gifts may seem small and others may think it is wise to send us back to where we came from, Jesus welcomes and even desires our gifts, just as they are. He takes the little and makes it into an abundance.

Let us pray that we can offer our gifts and receive those of others, so together our time and talent, our bread and fish may be set before the Lord so that it may be distributed back into the world. May we discover that through our offering not only will there be just enough to survive but our baskets will overflow and in our offering Jesus will turn our gifts into an abundance where all are satisfied and all are filled.



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by Mary LaVoy

Dinner at the Reef
Apple, orange, pocket fruit!
It's not stealing, right?