

I saw you in the food bank queue

I saw you in the food bank queue, waiting your turn.
I saw you asleep in a doorway, a newspaper as a blanket
I saw you turn down the heating and put on another jumper.
I saw you alone and weeping, hurt by loss and sorrow.

I want to serve you, to anoint your head and feet in oil,
to live a life worthy of the calling you lay before me.
And here are your feet, tired from the queue in the food bank;
here you are, dirty, cold, hungry and lonely-
everywhere I look-
in need of food and warmth and love.

Servant God, who lives among us,
help me to serve you wherever you are in the world.
When I see one hurt or in pain,
give me the strength and courage to serve you,
to share, to mend, to listen, to comfort,
and also to shout about the systems that hurt,
that limit flourishing and freedom.

May I better serve you where your need is greatest,
where your people are in pain and suffering,
where the world needs love,
and my neighbours silently cry for freedom.

Matthew Prevett - URC Prayer Handbook 2023 – 75

Luke 9 v10-17

¹⁰When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida, ¹¹but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

¹²Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.”

¹³He replied, **“You give them something to eat.”**

They answered, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all this crowd.” ¹⁴(About five thousand men were there.)

But he said to his disciples, **“Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each.”** ¹⁵The disciples did so, and everybody sat down. ¹⁶Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people. ¹⁷They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.