

Pastor Dave Rohde

For Sunday, December 1st "Hungry for Hope"

Micah 5:2-4 - NIV

² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times."

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

Luke 2:7 - NIV

⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Matthew 14:13-21 - NIV

¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

¹⁵ As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

¹⁶ Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

¹⁷ "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

¹⁸ "Bring them here to me," he said. ¹⁹ And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Takeaway: Hope is found in unexpected places.

Questions

1. Share about a favorite dish, meal or treat associated with Advent (or the Christmas season in general). What makes it so special?
2. What lessons can we learn from being hungry? How might physical hunger help us to understand deficiencies around other sorts of needs (spiritual, emotional, social, etc.)?
3. In Matthew 14:13-21, Jesus provides abundantly for a hungry crowd. What does this story reveal about God's ability to meet our needs, even when we feel we lack enough?
4. Advent is a season of waiting and anticipation. How can we actively prepare our hearts to recognize and receive hope during this time?

Sermon: <https://podcast.wpcwestlake.org/services/mp3/sermon20241201.mp3>

Service Video: <https://youtu.be/2Yn52ZHa0gQ>