

Stories about the flood have meditated on how much people can do if they pull together. Giving an hour here or a ~~dollar~~ sandbag there has really made a difference for victims. Sometimes if we have an ~~identifiable~~ ^{common} enemy, we discover our unity. ^{In this case} The strength of nature has revealed the weakness of humanity, but with each person doing whatever he or she can, ^{we find our unity} some miracles have happened.

The miracle story in today's gospel may also be a case of each person doing whatever he or she can. Some people believe that Jesus did not really multiply loaves at all. Rather, once he and the apostles shared what little they had, they inspired others to do the same, and the crowd realized they had plenty food if only they shared. Matthew never really says how all those loaves appeared: He says the apostles passed around the five loaves, and he says that everyone had enough to eat, but whether it was those or some other breads is not clear. Either way, it's a great miracle, whether ~~it~~ physically multiplied loaves or inspired people to share.

Worries can surround us like floodwaters. We can't see the way out of relationships we're in, decisions we regret, or bad habits we've formed. Some of these floods we've brought on ourselves, others are handed to us in the riverbeds of life. The worst solution is to do nothing, to sit back and let our problems increase with each new rainfall. Satisfaction generally comes from doing what we can--giving what energy, what time, what resources we have, even if it's only a little bit. We don't have to sandbag our worries on the first day, we just have to do our part. ^{Doing even a little bit} It will make us feel better about ourselves, it may inspire others to do the same, or ^{that little bit} it just may be enough to feed the multitude and bring us peace.