

How much is enough? Whatever you have. If there are five thousand hungry people and all you have is five loaves of barely bread and two fish, give thanks and share it.

Brandon Chubb, when he was captain of the Wake Forest University football team and a member of Ben Hill United Methodist Church in Atlanta, shared what he had with those in need. “I’m a college student,” he said. “I don’t make a lot of money, so I do what I can to give back. I give my time when I have free time. I give my wisdom, my heart.”

Chubb volunteered with H.O.P.E., Help Our People Eat. Brandon was an economics major and invested his Sundays to reach kids and recruit other student athletes to mentor alongside him.

“Brandon is a leader by example,” said Sam Boesch, member of the Wake Forest Volleyball team. “Other people see him doing this and they’re like, ‘Wow, I want to be like Brandon Chubb.’”

Dezmond Worthman, tailback of the football team when Chubb was captain, said, “You follow him because you know he is a good person and you know he means well.” Grant Dawson, linebacker, added, “If that’s what he is doing, then that is probably something I should be doing.”

Demetrius Williams received more than meals from H.O.P.E.; he received the proper and particular cuisine that gave him hope. Demetrius said of his mentor, Brandon, “He’s helping me get good grades and be good in school and work hard and just be a champion.”

Winston Salem is one of the top cities in the entire US for hunger in families with children. According to H.O.P.E., North Carolina and Louisiana are now the top states for hunger in children from birth to four years of age. One of every four children in North Carolina has insufficient food to meet nutritional needs.

Retired pediatrician Marty Tennille founded H.O.P.E. along with her husband Ben and her church, Centenary United Methodist. She saw a need among her patients. “On Monday mornings, I used to take food to have it in the office, because so many of the children I saw were so hungry. What they needed was food and attention.”

How much is enough? Whatever you have. Marty has, with the help of Brandon and many, many others, turned a bag of groceries into 360,000 meals. On one Sunday, Brandon and his friends fed 1100 children.

Jesus and the disciples attempted to escape to the other side of the Sea of Tiberias, unsuccessfully. They were followed by a large crowd. This is an impulsive, spontaneous gathering. The people are hungry enough for Jesus' teaching that they chase him down, won't let him go.

Imagine the story from the perspective of the young boy with five barley loaves and two dried fish. What was he doing with this food and why was he the only one with food?

That morning his mother baked bread, small cakes really. She combined barely flour with a little wheat flour, added a dash of baking soda and a little salt. After combining the dry ingredients, she mixed some goats milk with an egg and a little honey. She added the wet ingredients to the dry, kneaded the dough and let it rest. She formed it into small cakes, about the size of large muffins, placed them over the fire to bake.

Her husband had been in the field working since sunup and was getting hungry. She called her boy and sent him to his father with the barley loaves and dried fish. On the way to his father, the boy was caught up in a large crowd. He had never seen so many people. He couldn't find his father; he was frightened.

As he wandered through the crowd, a large man spotted him and called out to him. He did not know this man. What was he to do? The man called again. The boy saw no way of escape and came reluctantly. This stranger brought the boy to another man, the one who had been teaching the crowd.

Jesus makes the crowd sit down in small groups. John reports, Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks. Jesus *took* the loaves . . . Did Jesus ask the boy for the loaves or just take them? What was the boy thinking his father would say? What kind of person was his father? What kind of relationship did the boy have with his father? Jesus *took* the loaves . . .

After it was all over, the boy runs home to tell his mom what happened. Some young traveling preacher out of Galilee took the fresh-baked bread and dried fish and fed five thousand people.

Mom placed her hand on her son's forehead to check his temperature. Sunstroke is a constant threat in her world. She thought, "What a tale! It can't be true . . . but if it is . . . What kind of dough did these hands knead this morning?"

Is it true? The next time you wonder if you have enough, give thanks for what you have, share it and see what happens.