# Religion

# Bread carries with it many meanings

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mark 6:30-34 July 21, 1991

Mid or End of Recession Tips for Summer Savings with Liturgical Content

1. Pesto sauce, pasta, bread and wine. Cheap, but good, especially when shared with friends.

2. Jesus of Montreal. The film by Denys Arcand is available from your local video store.

3. Solitude. The habit, though perhaps not easily acquired, is nevertheless worth pursuing. Also very cheap. The book is by Anthony Storr and is available in paperback at a reasonable price.

4. Two other books, both available at your library, which are dynamite when mixed with this summer's scripture readings, are The Rituals of Dinner by Margaret Visser and The Beauty Myth by Naomi Wolf.

Scriptural Overview
The main theme for the rest of
the summer's readings then, is
bread, the breaking of it and the
various layers of meaning that

surround it.

Both Margaret Visser and Naomi Wolf also write about bread and the various symbolic levels of bread in their new books.

Naomi Wolf writes about bread in connection with dieting. She writes, "Food is the primal symbol of social worth. Whom a society values, it feeds well." She notes that the etymology of companion is "with" and "bread" - those who break bread together.

Margaret Visser adds to this material: "...breaking bread and sharing it with friends "means" friendship itself, and also trust, pleasure and gratitude in sharing."

Oddly enough, Margaret Visser ends up moving from a discussion of bread to a discussion of cannibalism. The same move is made by John in his account of the dialogue between Jesus and the people. (Jesus is misunderstood. "What do you mean; Eat my flesh?")

"Come away to a lonely place."
This is what Jesus says to the disciples in today's reading when they return from their circuit of preaching and healing. Constantly throughout the gospels Jesus goes off by himself to the wilderness. In the Bible, deserted places are where new visions of reality occur. It is in deserts that New Cities and New Worlds are

But in today's reading, the people won't let him go alone. They follow Jesus and the disciples into the wilderness. Mark records the compassion that Jesus has for these people who are like "sheep without a shepherd". Mark is set-

conceived.

# Bible Digest

"Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them." Matthew 19:13

Are you keeping people from coming to Jesus by your actions or words? If so, repent and be a disciple that brings people to Jesus.

"There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." Joshua 1:5

God is faithful. He will always be there for His own. Do you know the Lord?

"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." Luke

13:23-24
Salvation is not something to take for granted. Trust the Lord today. Tomorrow may never come.



Religion and Reality by Jim Ryan

ting us up for a comparison between Moses and Yahweh, and Jesus. Jesus will lead the people into a new Promised Land. John takes this theme further in the next few weeks with references to manna and different kinds of bread.

Solitude

If you can get a chance to be alone this summer (The kids are asleep; the dog has been fed.) don't be afraid. Anthony Storr writes that our society puts stress on companionship and relationship, but that's only half of the equation. He writes that solitude and acquiring a taste for it is equally important.



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