

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

*Attention everyone: There is a national lettuce shortage;
everyone please romaine calm.*

When I was a boy, our church used to have an end-of-the-year Sunday school picnic. This took place in late May or early June. When I was older, this picnic was often called the “All Church Picnic.” We’d meet at the city park, usually following a Sunday morning worship service.

These were wonderful affairs, especially if you were a kid. Games were organized for the youngsters, but best of all was the food! Several tables were designated for different types of food: salads, casseroles, main dishes and desserts. Invariably, these tables were laden with fried chicken, baked beans, hot dogs, potato salad, any number of casseroles, homemade rolls, sliced tomatoes, pickles and olives. Then there were chocolate cakes, angel food cakes with a strawberry topping, and cherry, apple or lemon meringue pies, and homemade ice cream sometimes hand-cranked by the deacons.

Some people who came to the picnic potluck didn’t come with much. This was because they didn’t have much. One time, my friend’s family didn’t provide anything but a plate-load of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

But the beautiful thing about these picnics was that when you put all this food together, sharing it like that, everyone felt as rich as could be.

And the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches disappeared, along with most of the rest of the food.

There’s a lesson here. It’s probably fair to say that most of us want to give to the Lord what we can, and we’d like to bring our finest. After all, look what God brings to the table! God has the food table overflowing with everything rich and blessed and desirable. There are plates overflowing with grace, mercy, faith and wisdom and much more.

And what do I have? Sandwiches!

But when it’s put together, it’s amazing. This reminds us that when we get together with God to do something, the result will often be surprising.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Loving God, I bring today for your use these simple gifts of patience, a smile and a few acts of kindness. Be glorified in all that I do. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 6-9

Monday: Isaiah 55-57

Tuesday: Isaiah 58-60

Wednesday: Isaiah 61-63

Thursday: Isaiah 64-66

Friday: Micah 1-4

Saturday: Psalms 76-78

The Conversion of Saul — Fill in the Blanks

Acts 9:1-9 tells the story of the conversion of Saul, who later was known as the apostle Paul. Read the story and fill in the blanks from the list to the right. Some words are used more than once. You can insert the correct number rather than writing the word if you wish.



Meanwhile Saul, still breathing _____ and _____ against the _____ of the Lord, went to the _____ and asked him for letters to the _____ at _____ so that if he found any who belonged to the _____, men or women, he might bring them bound to _____. Now as he was going along and approaching _____, suddenly a _____ from _____ flashed around him. He _____ to the _____ and heard a _____ saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am _____, whom you are _____. But get up and enter the _____, and you will be _____ what you are to do.” The men who were traveling with him stood _____ because they heard the _____ but saw no one. Saul got up from the _____, and though his eyes were _____, he could see _____; so they led him by the hand and brought him into _____. For _____ days he was without sight, and neither ate nor _____.

1. persecuting
2. disciples
3. three
4. high priest
5. nothing
6. Damascus (3)
7. Way
8. threats
9. heaven
10. fell
11. drank
12. ground (2)
13. Jerusalem
14. murder
15. light
16. voice (2)
17. Jesus
18. city
19. synagogues
20. told
21. speechless
22. open

Solution (in the order they appear):

threats, murder, disciples, high priest, synagogues, Damascus, Way, Jerusalem, Damascus, light, heaven, fell, ground, voice, Jesus, persecuting, city, told, speechless, voice, ground, open, nothing, Damascus, three, drank.