

Commentary on the Gospel for Fri, Apr 20th 2012

Now, barley loaves are found in health-food shops, and they cost more than other kinds of bread. But in the Lord's time barley was basically considered animal feed and the poor had to live on it. The two fish in the story: what kind were they? Two nice pieces of trout or mackerel? No they would have been the small boney fish that abounded in the Lake of Galilee that poor people sailed and took with them when they traveled. In other words, the raw materials of this miracle were of the poorest quality. Perhaps it is always so: miracles require a certain poverty and simplicity. When you are insulated from your essential readiness by wealth, what need have you of miracles?

Bible Diary - CMF