



Daily Manna for Monday

July 19, 2021

Prepared for you by
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Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

⁴²A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, “Give it to the people and let them eat.” ⁴³But his servant said, “How can I set this before a hundred people?” So he repeated, “Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, ‘They shall eat and have some left.’” ⁴⁴He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD

Doesn't this unfamiliar reading from 2 Kings sound familiar? Sounds a bit like the Mark narrative of Jesus, omitted from yesterday's Gospel reading, feeding five thousand with just a couple fish and five loaves of bread, don't you think? But no, this is from the second book of Kings, hardly a well-read historical book, narrating the miracles of Elisha, the prophet, Elijah's successor. Here in this mini-reading, in the middle of a famine in the land, a man came to the “man of God” (Elisha) carrying the first-fruits of the harvest, twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain.

Elisha simply responds, “Give it to the people and let them eat.” A practical man, Elisha's servant retorts, “How can I set this before a hundred people?” Not dissimilar to the disciples' response to Jesus to feed the crowd assembled on the hillside. And guess what. “They ate and had some left.”

Why is it so easy to see what we don't have – especially in the midst of a famine or a pandemic or a drought – and completely miss the great bounty right in front of our eyes? How easy is it to respond, “We can't do that” and totally miss the great gift of possibility sitting in our laps? The people ate and there were left-overs! God does provide. What will you do with the left-overs?