



## Daily Manna for Tuesday

July 20, 2021

Prepared for you by

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### First Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

<sup>42</sup>A 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.” <sup>43</sup>But 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.’” <sup>44</sup>He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

The second book of Kings, once part of one larger book along with 1<sup>st</sup> Kings chronicled the cycle of kings throughout the history of Israel. This history also chronicles Prophets and actions of those prophets that try to steer Israel and the kingdom of Judah to better themselves in the eyes of God and turn the kingdoms back to God and humility. In our passage from 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings this week we hear a familiar story in the bible, feeding people through impossible means. Elisha, a prophet and man of God the successor to Elijah, stands before a multitude and performs a familiar miracle. He feeds 100's with 20 bread loaves and grain. Now this is nothing in comparison to the gospel texts 5 loaves for 5000, and truly it is incomparable to Jesus's miracle as Jesus does so through his own power. Elisha and the record keeper writing Kings consistently impress that Elisha acts according and through the word of the Lord. It is not of Elisha's power that people are fed but the Lords.

For Elisha it was such an outlandish act that even the servant was in disbelief. This power to feed and act while in the Word is still well known, hundreds of years later in Jesus's time they remembered this feeding and declared him a prophet like those of old. Food being so important they even tried to make Jesus king. Acting within the Word then sounds like something reserved for only the pious, but that is not true anyone can act as Elisha did. Sharing food, love, or time with others are all within this Word and while we cannot perform miracles, anyone can act. Even the smallest actions or the smallest amounts, can seem miraculous to those who have little; a coffee with a friend you haven't seen in a while, calling a person far away just to say “Hi”, fellowship times at Church, giving to the poor or towards projects for betterment, or even a bit of fish and bread shared as a meal. Our God made all humanity in their image with hands meant to do these actions. These actions echo our sending's and our mission statements, “God's Work, Our Hands”.