

**"Feeding 100 Men"**

**2 Kings 4:42-44**

**Introduction:** In our study of Elisha we have come to 3 verses that are frequently looked over. We are going to take the time to look at these three verses and see the miracle and to see the application for our live. There are many lessons to be learned from these verses. The encouragement from this miracle for our lives in the day in which we live in is amazing. We shall see many parallels for our day in this study tonight. Let us now look closely at the miracle.

I. **The Conditions and the Traveler**

**Notice 2 Kings 4:42a**

The first word of the verse which is "and" connects this miracle with the previous miracle. In the previous miracle we looked at the conditions of that day and there was a dearth/famine in the land. We were able to determine this dearth was the result of God's people turning from Him and going after idols.

**Deuteronomy 28:15-18, 23-24**

<sup>15</sup> *But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:*

<sup>16</sup> *Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.*

<sup>17</sup> *Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store.*

<sup>18</sup> *Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.*

<sup>23</sup> *And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron.*

<sup>24</sup> *The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed.*

So, the word, "and" connects this to the same conditions and so when this traveler comes to Elisha the people are still under the dearth.

**Notice 2 Kings 4:42 again.**

In the time of the dearth a man from Baal-shalisha came to Elisha with twenty loaves of bread. The place where this man came from is very important. Baal-shalisha was not always so named.

**1 Samuel 9:4**

*<sup>4</sup> And he passed through mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of **Shalisha**, but they found them not: then they passed through the land of Shalim, and there they were not: and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found them not.*

This place was known as Shalisha in Samuel's day, so we must ask what happened? Wicked Jezebel, the wife of Ahab, used her power to bring the worship of Baal into the area and to change the name to Baal-shalisha. The name Shalisha has a very interesting meaning and in the meaning you will see why Satan moved Jezebel to attach the name of the pagan god, Baal to it. Shalisha means "one third" or "three parts". It come from a root word that means "on the third day". This tells us the name is connected to the greatest miracle ever recorded which is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**1 Samuel 20:19**

*<sup>19</sup> And when thou hast stayed **three days**, then thou shalt go down quickly, and come to the place where thou didst hide thyself when the business was in hand, and shalt remain by the stone Ezel.*

The words "three days" are actually the root word for Shalisha. The point I want you to see is that Shalisha was attacked by Satan because of the meaning of the name and Jezebel had the worship of Baal established within Shalisha in order to corrupt the people. But here in our text we can see that while Shalisha was deep into false worship there was one man who stayed separated from the corruption for he had a heart for God's man.

**Application:**

Last week I reminded you that when a nation turns away from God today they face a famine, but it is not one of physical food, but it is a famine of the Word of God.

**Amos 8:11-12**

*<sup>11</sup> Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, **but of hearing the words of the LORD:***

*<sup>12</sup> And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro **to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.***

We are living in a time of spiritual famine. Then on top of that we see cities and towns falling deeper and deeper into spiritual darkness. If we are not careful we can become rather discouraged by what is happening in our world. But let me give you some encouragement.

Just like in Elisha's day God always has a remnant who will remain faithful. God will never leave Himself without a witness.

**Genesis 6:5-8**

*<sup>5</sup> And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

*<sup>6</sup> And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.*

*<sup>7</sup> And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.*

*<sup>8</sup> But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*

The world in Noah's day had fallen deep into spiritual darkness but Noah remained separated. God would keep His promise of the Messiah alive through Noah and his family.

In the midst of the sin of Judah and her captivity there were 4 men who refused to be molded by Nebuchadnezzar.

**Daniel 1:6-8**

*<sup>6</sup> Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:*

*<sup>7</sup> Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Beltshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.*

*<sup>8</sup> But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*

The point we need to grasp is that in the midst of the spiritual famine of our day and the corruption that is sweeping across our nation as well as Satan's attempts to corrupt as many as he can, God will always have those who will be a witness for Him. There will always be someone who has a heart for God and His servants just like this man in 2 Kings. There

will always be someone who will preach the Truth of the Word of God. There will always be a light in the darkness as this man was in our text.

II. **The Gift and the Giver**

**Notice 2 kings 4:42**

When I read of where this man came from, Baal-shalisha a place of idolatry and corruption I am reminded that when there is a need God can meet the need in ways which we never expected.

**1 Kings 17:2-6**

<sup>2</sup> *And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,*

<sup>3</sup> *Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.*

<sup>4</sup> *And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.*

<sup>5</sup> *So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.*

<sup>6</sup> **And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.**

God resources are inexhaustible.

**Psalm 50:10**

<sup>10</sup> *For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.*

**Psalm 104:24**

<sup>24</sup> *O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.*

Application:

I point this out because there are times when God moves His people to take a step of faith and they hesitate or else just refuse to move all because they do not know where the resources are going to come from. I spoke to someone not so long ago and they shared with me how they needed to expand their church building but many in the church voted to start a building fund and wait until they have enough money to complete the project. They asked me what I thought and I simply said, "That is not walking by faith." The interesting point

they shared with me was that their building fund stalled out at a certain point. I explained that could be because God is waiting until they take a step of faith then He will meet the need. We all are guilty of wondering at times where the resources are going to come from in certain situations but let me just say that when we are in the will of God He will be faithful to meet our needs.

**Psalm 37:25**

*<sup>25</sup> I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*

There is also another verse from Psalm 37 that fits our text tonight.

**Psalm 37:23**

*<sup>23</sup> The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD; and he delighteth in his way.*

God had order this man to come to Elisha and God can move people to meet our needs or use us to meet the needs of others. We must learn to walk by faith. This then brings us to our next point.

III. **The Faith of Elisha**

**Notice 2 Kings 4:42-43**

When the unnamed man brought the food, Elisha encouraged him to give it to the men. This man however did not understand the faith of Elisha and so his response was that 20 loaves of bread was not sufficient to meet the needs of 100 men. We need to look at both Elisha and the unnamed man.

1. **Elisha** - Let me put us in Elisha's shoes for the moment. How tempting would it be in this situation to look at the circumstances around us, the dearth, and justify keeping the twenty loaves for ourselves?

But this was never a consideration of Elisha, He put others first and himself last. We can see within Elisha here a picture of Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 2:5-8**

*<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

*<sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:*

*<sup>7</sup> But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

<sup>8</sup> *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

Like Jesus, Elisha put the needs of others above his own comforts and needs and when the bread was given to him he was quick to give it to others. Elisha knew that the blessings of the Lord were not to be used selfishly. He knew that what was given to him was to be used in the lives of others.

**Application:**

Many times, God's people are tempted to hold tightly to what God places in their care because they have a growing family, or they are simply concerned with what might come down the road at a later date. We so often forget certain verses.

**2 Corinthians 9:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> *Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

<sup>8</sup> ***And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:***

<sup>9</sup> *(As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.*

<sup>10</sup> *Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)*

As we invest what God has entrusted to us we must keep in mind that God is able to continue to pour blessings into our lives so that we can share with others. It is impossible to out give God.

**Proverbs 11:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> *There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.*

<sup>25</sup> *The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.*

**2. The unnamed man.**

**Notice 2 Kings 4:43**

This man questioned the faith of Elisha. But his question did not hinder the faith of Elisha.

Application:

We have discussed this before, but it needs to be stated again. There will always be people who question a step of faith. There will always be those who have little vision and they will not understand your step of faith. They will possibly do all they can to discourage you, but you must not allow that to happen. Let me show you why that is.

**Notice 2 Kings 4:43-44**

The 20 loaves of bread fed the 100 men and there was bread left over. Had Elisha pulled back because of this man's unbelief they would have all missed the miracle. There are going to be times of opposition when we step out in faith, but we must not allow those who oppose to stop us for then we will miss the mighty hand of God at work.

**Conclusion:**

I will end by showing you what happened to Israel when they refused to walk by faith and enter the land of Canaan at Kadesh Barnea.

**Numbers 14:22-23, 26-29**

*<sup>22</sup> Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;*

*<sup>23</sup> Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:*

*<sup>26</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,*

*<sup>27</sup> How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.*

*<sup>28</sup> Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:*

*<sup>29</sup> Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward which have murmured against me.*

God can do wonderful works, but you and I must walk by faith to see His mighty hand at work.