

ELISHA SAVES THE STEW

FEEDING A CROWD IN A TIME OF FAMINE: 2 Kings 4:38-44

- I. **FAMINE IN THE REGION** (38)
 - A. **Fallen World** (Gen 3:17-19)—the ground cursed because of Adam’s sin
 - B. **Serious Stress**—stress to provide for your family, *to eat or not to eat!*
 - C. **Fatherly Care** (Mat 4:4; 6:9, 11, 31-34)—we are not orphans; God is also Father to the fathers
 1. **Taking Responsibility** (Ps 33:18-19)
 2. **Providing Physical Food** (Mat 7:9-11)
 3. **Providing Spiritual Instruction** (Mat 4:4)

- II. **DEATH IN THE POT** (38-41; Mk 16:18)—miracle of **quality**; making the poisonous edible
 - A. **The Problem of Poison** (Deut 32:32-33)—the Fall; honest mistake can be deadly
 1. **Deadly**
 2. **Bad-tasting**
 3. **Unfit for consumption**
 - B. **The Challenge of Potluck**—*community fellowship, the church*
 1. **Culinary Chaos**—*too many people adding ingredients*
 2. **Accidental Offenses**—*my contribution is not appreciated or causes harm*
 3. **Ethnic Cuisine** (Rom 11:17; Act 10:9-17)—*metaphor for inclusion of Gentiles in the church*
 - C. **The Grace of Gravy** (Mk 16:18)
 1. **The gospel of grace is able to unify the church in love.** (1 Pet 4:8)
 2. **The sweetness of grace is more powerful than the bitterness of offense.** (Mk 16:18)
 3. **Sharing life in community is messy and fraught with risk—Do it anyway.**
 →*Sprinkle the grace of God into any stew in which you find yourself!*

III. **MEAL FOR A HUNDRED** (42-44; Mat 14:15-21; 15:32-38)—miracle of **quantity**

A. **The Problem** (43)—not enough to feed everyone

1. I don't **have** enough.—food, money, time, etc...
2. **I am** not enough.—my wisdom, strength, skill, personality, emotional energy...
→ *God looks at what we have, not at what we don't have.*

B. **The Provision**—God is always enough!

1. A **Providential Gift** (42)—your gift means more than you know.
2. A **Miraculous Multiplication** (44)—a gift multiplies in the sharing.
3. A **Good Meal**
 - a. **Adequate**—nothing fancy but it is wholesome and nutritious
 - b. **Enough**—everyone had their fill
 - c. **Generous**—more than enough, even enough for left-overs (43-44)
4. A **Comforting Promise** (Gen 22:14; Mat 16:8-10)—**The Lord will provide.**
 - a. For those who are seeking His kingdom and righteousness. (Mat 6:33)
 - b. For those who share with His people. (Phil 4:19)
 - c. What we need to minister to others. (Lk 11:5-6)

IV. **The Ultimate Prophet** (Deut 18:15, 18; Acts 3:22).

A. **Resemblance to the Great Prophets**

1. Miracles of **healing what is bitter**
2. Miracles of **providing food**
3. **Teaching Ministry**—training disciples and teaching others

B. **Surpassing All Other Prophets**

1. More miracles and greater
2. **Undoing the Curse**—He is able to restore the blessing of creation.
3. **The Everlasting Father**
 - a. **The Fatherhood of Adam** (what it should have been)
 - b. **The Fatherhood of God** (what it is)