



Handout for week of 8/6/18 Jn. 6: 41-51 & 1 Kgs. 19:4-8

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Link to [Beck](#) (paywall) other [Beck](#)

Stone, Naomi. [thou preparest a table before us](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [Eucharist as new manna](#)

[Monastery Sunday Homilies](#)

[YouTube link](#)

(Not included in lectionary text) *1 And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying: 'So let the gods do [to me], and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.' 3 And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.*

1 Kgs. 19: (4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom-tree; and he requested for himself that he might die; and said: 'It is enough; now, O HaShem, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.' 5 And he lay down and slept under a broom-tree; and, behold, an angel touched him, and said unto him: 'Arise and eat.' 6 And he looked, and, behold, there was at his head a cake baked on the hot stones, and a cruse of water. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. 7 And the angel of HaShem came again the second time, and touched him, and said: 'Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.' 8 And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meal forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of G-d.

#### COMMENTARY:

Elisha was a man who sought to obey God and to get himself in a position where he could best serve Him. This led to him becoming a prophet. There he was used to heal people and do the work of the Lord. Because of the power that God gave him he easily could have used this to profit for himself. Instead he was an example of purity and righteousness. When one of his servants sought to use his healing of Naaman the Leper from Syria for his own profit, Elisha used this to teach him a lesson.

When the Prophet Elijah was on his way to Damascus from Sinai he found Elisha in the fields, ploughing twelve yoke of oxen. He went over to him, threw a rough mantle over his shoulders symbolically denoting him to be his successor. Dramatically, Elisha killed the oxen that were just doing his work and cooked their meat over the wood of his plough. After a quick feast, he left to become Elijah's attendant.

Nothing more is heard about Elisha until several years later when it was time for Elijah to "retire". Knowing that the Lord was about to take him Elijah tested his servant's devotion by asking him three times to remain while he went on in turn to Bethel, Jericho and then over the Jordan. Well aware of what was about to happen, Elijah refused to leave his master.

Elisha means God is Salvation. Like Elijah, Elisha was a prophet of northern Israel. He was anointed prophet by Elijah (1 Kings 19:16-21) and prophesied during the reigns of Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz and Joash, a period of sixty years. When Elijah was taken up into Heaven Elisha became his successor.

Elisha performed many miracles. This included bringing a child back from the dead (II Kings 4), healing a leper and cursing some kids who mocked him so that a two bears mauled over forty of them (II Kings 2).

Key Verses they are mentioned in:

The life and works of Elisha can be found in I Kings 19; 2 Kings 2-9; 13:14-21.

Fr. Ron Rolheiser talks about God's voice [God's Voice as Invitation](#). Click on this link and enjoy his wisdom.