

Unexpected Feasts

A Table Prepared

Psalm 23:4-6

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou **preparest** (*arak*) a table before me in the presence of mine **enemies** (*sarar*):
thou **anointest** (*dasen*) my head with oil; my **cup** (*kos*) runneth **over** (*rewaya*).

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

- Arak – to set in order, arrange, set in battle array...
 - o Table of supply and commune.
 - o Also used to describe Abraham as he prepared to sacrifice Isaac
- Sarar – to surround, envelop, cramp - describes how a slingshot surrounds a stone.
- Dasen – linked with sacrifice and ashes.
 - o to be fat, grow fat, become fat, become prosperous, anoint
 - o (Qal) of prosperity (fig.)
 - o to find fat (of offering - acceptable) to take away ashes (from altar)
- Kos – a cup, measure, as in to hold together, but also some unclean birds like the little owl
- Rewaya – also wealthy, satisfaction, and saturation
 - o Only other use was Psalm 66:12 – another situation where we have gone through trials and refining, but ended with God bringing us into a “wealthy” place

Examples of Unexpected or Spontaneous Feasting:

New Testament:

- **John 6 & Matt 14** – Jesus feeding of the 5,000
- **John 2:1-11** – Wedding at Cana – miraculous supply of wine
- **Luke 15:23-24** – The prodigal’s return – redemption and restoration
- **John 21** – Jesus directs disciples to a miraculous catch of fish, then cooks them up for breakfast on the shore!

Old Testament:

- **Exodus 16** – Manna and quail for the Israelites
- **1 Kings 17:4-6** – Elijah and the ravens bringing food
- **1 Kings 17:8-16** – Elijah and the woman with the cruse of oil
- **1 Kings 19:5-9** - Angel made a cake (*uga* – same as with the woman) for Elijah
- **2 Kings 4:42-44** – Elisha’s 20 barley loaves and corn (firstfruits offered to Elisha) multiplied to feed 100 men

Other Examples of Miraculous Provision:

- **Genesis 22** - The ram in the thicket for Abraham about to sacrifice Isaac
- **Deuteronomy 8:4 & 29:5** - Clothing that did not wear out during the 40 years in the wilderness
- **2 Kings 3** – Elisha and the field of “blood” – victory over the Moabites
- **2 Kings 4:1-7** - Elisha and the widow’s oil
- **Matt 17:24-27** - The coin in the fish’s mouth

Elijah’s Eats

1 Kings 17:1-16 (KJV)

1 And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, **there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.** 2 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, 3 Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. 4 And it shall be, that **thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.** 5 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. 6 And the ravens brought him **bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening;** and he drank of the brook. 7 And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, 9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, **I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.** 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. 11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. 12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake (*ma’og*), but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. 13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake (*uga*) first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. 14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, **The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.** 15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. 16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.