

Immerse Day 27 :: Mar. 9

What a passage of scripture! There is so much here that we could write for days and not cover it all. Manna, quail, the pillar of smoke revealing the Glory of God, the Sabbath day restated, and more. So what is the key to this particular part of the text? I believe this section is all about Provision.

We live in a world where God has provided more than enough of what we need. But the powerful – due to age or gender or race or location or charisma – collect more than they need and then hold it ransom so the less powerful – due to all of those descriptors and more – become their servants. This is a global reality that we can see everywhere. Each year America wastes 72 billions pounds of food, while 50 million people struggle with not having enough, according to [feedingamerica.org](http://feedingamerica.org). And when we share our food, local warlords or government officials intercept the food to increase their power. So while God provides all we need and more, we selfishly use that provision for our own power, comfort, and security.

When the Israelites first receive the manna (don't you just love that they named the bread, "What is it?" which is the word manna in Hebrew?), the bible makes clear that there was plenty. And that abundance kept coming day after day for over 40 years. Yet what is the first story we are told about it? Hoarding, disobedience, a lack of faith in tomorrow's provision. But God has a plan there, too. Keep manna more than a day? Maggots, rot, decay (except for the Sabbath, but that's a blog for another day.) The point is that here, as the "People of God" is born, they are forced first and foremost to trust Him, to have faith. And though they try to break that faith, they cannot because breaking faith rots everything.

What if God decreed that all of our hoarded power, comfort, and security would get maggot-y, rot, and decay every day? What if we truly had to pray that God would "give us THIS day our daily bread"? Imagine what life would be like without savings accounts or investments or retirement funds... without job security or safety. Imagine what life would be like, IS like, for millions around the world who have to put their trust in God each day for the provision of the next. Imagine the power of their faith. I wonder what we might learn from them.