

“So the people of Israel ate manna for forty years until they arrived at the land where they would settle. They ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.” Exodus 16:35 NLT

lectio // Exodus 16:31-35

I've been saying the God's stories are very long, but I never imagined that his object lessons could last up to FORTY YEARS! That is a really long point to be made. And, I would think that a fore-shadowed object lesson that lasted 14,500 days would be permanently etched in the mind of every Jewish person forever. We think 8 months plus of Covid-19 is a big deal! Try coming up with manna recipes that are both tasty and creative over FORTY years. Did your parents serve a dish so often that, as an adult, you can't stand it? And you would think that a prayer that Jesus prayed would trigger a long, generational memory, "give us this day our daily bread." Where our lives were completely and totally dependent on fresh manna every single day. And we had to go out and harvest/collect that manna everyday. If I missed a day to collect it or tried to store up more so I wouldn't have to work at it the next day - POOF, it was gone... or rotten. Do I get up each and everyday looking, seeking and gathering the word of God by meeting with him and listening to his leading by the Holy Spirit every day? Do I think to myself, "oh yesterday, I met with God and it was amazing, so I don't need to meet with him tomorrow." Different focus, but I can't imagine how that kind of thinking would go over with my wife. "Honey, I talked with you yesterday, no need to talk with you today." #husbandfail. If you're asking an obvious question about the creativity of making manna taste unique after forty years and how you keep a relationship exciting and growing, just ask couples who've been married for awhile. Robin and I have been married 38 years and every single day is new and different - even the drama is uniquely exciting. I've known Jesus for 43 years and it just keeps getting better!

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Dad,

My head is still spinning about your forty year object lesson. Man, I hope it doesn't take that long to understand how critical our time is together. And even though it's just an hour or so (like two quarts of manna), it is so much more amazing than when I first believed. Thank you for your love, mercy and especially patience as I muddle through thing called life.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root