

# Where's Your Chair?

Exodus 16 1-12



He rained down upon them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven.  
So mortals ate the bread of angels; he sent them food in plenty.  
Psalm 78:24-25

## **Praising:**

You satisfy the hungry heart  
with gift of finest wheat;  
Come, give to us, O saving Lord,  
the bread of life to eat.

## **Reading:**

Exodus 16:1-12  
Hunger sets in

God's promise of protection does not linger long with the Israelites as they leave the oasis of Elim. Or at least, they don't grasp that protection includes provision on a basic domestic level. Apparently the seasoned food of Egypt was preferable to the precarious freedom of the wilderness. Again, Israel sentimentalises its slavery and insults Moses and Aaron – and by implication the Lord – suggesting the Egyptians had supplied for it more generously. God's plan to send Israel bread

and meat miraculously comes with a further test of faith: Israel will be given only enough for one day at a time. Will it trust God to keep his side of the bargain or gather more and hoard, just in case? The glory of the Lord is the sign that Moses and Aaron continue to lead with a divine mandate.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Save us Lord from every temptation to stow-away and stockpile

- fridges full of food we'll end up throwing out while others scavenge bins for leftovers
- cupboards full of clothes we will never wear while others live in castoffs and rags
- bank accounts full of money we won't ever spend while others beg for every penny

Father: so often it's between giving my extra away and saving for a rainy day. When I feel the urge to hold tight, show me to the need, want and pain I can alleviate. In Jesus' name. Amen

## **Doing:**