

Heart Matters – Faith that stands firm

2 Kings 4: 1 – 7, 41 – 44 and Matthew 14: 13 – 21

1. Elisha serves and is served

- A widow in need 4: 1 - 7
- A room, a place to rest and the gift of a son 4: 8 – 17
- Faith in the face of a tragic death 4: 8 – 36
- Death in the pot! Food for the prophets 4: 37 - 41
- A gift shared 4: 42- 44

2. Jesus feeds the 5000 Matthew 14: 13 – 21

- A heart for God develops a heart of compassion for others
- We will never have enough but God does!
- Faith needs exercising for it to stand firm
- Life lived on the edge!

3. A heart for God is a heart for people

- Elijah and Elisha point to the miracles of Jesus
- God's grace meets human needs
- Faithful people are cared for by a God who will meet our needs

Digging Deeper

Read 2 Kings 4: 1 - 44

1. What are some of the common themes that run through the events in this chapter?
2. On a national level how significant are they? What about to the individuals involved?
3. What do we learn about God's care from this chapter?
4. Is it realistic to trust God in the details of our lives? What do we learn about how we might do that through the events in chapter 4?
5. How do the Old Testament events help us understand Jesus better?

Read Matthew 14: 13 – 21

1. What is involved in being compassionate?
2. Do our limited resources restrict us in being compassionate?
3. If faith needs exercising for it to stand firm how do we exercise it?
4. How do we live life more on the edge taking him at his word that he is able to do more than we ask or imagine?