

## Salty

2 Kings 2:19-22; Mark 9:49-50

Salt is not only important for our own physical health but it has been a substance that has been used economically to pay people for their work. The word salary is derived from the practice of paying others in salt

In the 2 Kings scripture, Elisha has now taken over from Elijah who has passed away. The people praise God for the land they are in but complain about the water not being clean. So, Elijah says bring him salt. Now that request is a magnanimous, problematic, demanding, burdensome and challenging request. The reason that request is so enormous is because it requires the people, the ones who were giving praises and blessings to give a precious part of their survival up to God. Can you imagine being asked to bring to God what you live off of and what you use to survive. What thoughts race through your mind if you had to give to God that one thing you feel you can't survive on? And yet that was what God was asking of God's people at that time. Can you imagine what it must have been like to trust and give your most precious living sustaining possession over to God. Can you imagine the worry, the concern the fear to just give God the one thing that keeps you alive? Can you do that? Can you give up what you need to live right now such as your medicines, or money or your house? And to give that up to follow God in complete trust?

Here is how God fulfills his promises, for when we do give our most precious part of our human survival God returns with providing that life sustaining substance we need. In the scripture is it healthy water. But each time we completely trust and follow God and live out our covenant of salt with God, God provides and takes care of us.

In the Mark 9:49-50 scripture, Jesus is reminding us that the agreement or covenant of salt with God means that you have peace in your life. And that you can have peace with others at the same time. Imagine having that kind of peace! For many reasons it seems almost unfathomable in this world right now? Can you relate? We are living in unprecedented times with a pandemic and still struggling with racial injustice. Peace seems impossible. It seems almost like the world that Jesus was born into and grew up in and walked in and talked in and taught about God's love in. Jesus was the living example of the salt covenant. We are called, even in the seemingly impossible times, to covenant with God in a covenant of salt. A covenant of giving our most precious parts of us and relying on God's promises to come to fruition. Are you ready to live out your covenant of salt with God?

by Rev. David Piltz