

Jason Huffman
Exodus 16
8/28/24

Sermon Recap

Pastor Jason discusses the journey of the Israelites through the wilderness, emphasizing their tests of faith and learning to trust in God. He highlights their initial complaints about hunger, illustrating how they often looked to their leaders instead of the Lord. God responds by providing manna, teaching them to rely on Him daily and to observe the Sabbath, a day for rest and reflection on His provisions. Ultimately, we are reminded that true satisfaction comes from God, who fulfills our spiritual needs and hunger.

Discussion Questions

What does it mean to look to leaders instead of to God, and why is that a normal step in spiritual growth?

- Pastor Jason discusses how the children of Israel complained to Moses and Aaron instead of trusting the Lord, highlighting a typical process of faith development.
- Can you think of a time when you relied on someone else for guidance instead of seeking God's direction? What did you learn from that experience?

In Exodus 16:4, God says He will rain bread from heaven and test the people. Why do you think God tests our faith?

- Pastor Jason explains that God's provision is part of the testing process to develop faith and character.
- Have you ever faced a difficult situation that felt like a test of your faith? What did you learn about yourself or God through that experience?

How does the story of manna demonstrate God's provision for our daily needs?

- The Israelites received manna every day and it met their specific needs.
- What are some ways you see God's provision in your own life? How do you experience daily provision from His word?

What does it mean to rest in God, and why was the Sabbath important for the Israelites?

- Pastor Jason talks about the significance of the Sabbath and how it was a command for the community to rest and trust God.
- How can you incorporate rest into your own life to strengthen your relationship with God?

Why is it important to remember God's provision, as mentioned in Exodus 16:32-34?

- The message emphasized that keeping the manna was a way for the Israelites to remember God's faithfulness.
- How do you choose to remember the ways God has provided for you in your own life?

Prayer

- Ask for God's guidance to trust Him more deeply in times of need.
- Pray for the ability to recognize and receive God's daily provisions.
- Request support in building faith through life's challenges.

Teaching Notes:

Here we are on the journey through the wilderness.

First test: bitter water.

First lesson: God is the One who heals.

16 1 And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt.

God is taking them the scenic route because...

...they are not ready for the battles of the Promised Land.

2 Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. 3 And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat *and* when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

They complained against Moses & Aaron...

...This is a normal step of maturation.

4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. 5 And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."

It is not a challenge for God to provide for them, but it is...

...a challenge that develops their faith and their character.

6 Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the Lord has brought you out of the land of Egypt. 7 And in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord; for He hears your complaints against the Lord. But what *are* we, that you complain against us?"

Moses says, When you complain to us, you complain to Him.

8 Also Moses said, "*This shall be seen* when the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the Lord hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what *are* we? Your complaints *are* not against us but against the Lord."

When we complain against our circumstances...

...we complain against the Lord who is over our circumstances.

Complaining often has to do with doubting the character...

...of the one you are complain to.

9 Then Moses spoke to Aaron, “Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, ‘Come near before the Lord, for He has heard your complaints.’ ” **10** Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. **11** And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, **12** “I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I *am* the Lord your God.’ ”

And you shall know that I am the Lord.

“When circumstances are difficult, we’re prone to pray, “Lord, how can I get out of this?” when we ought to be praying, “Lord, what can I get out of this?” It isn’t important that we get our way, but it is important that God accomplishes His purposes and receives His glory.” Wiersbe, Warren

13 So it was that quail came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. **14** And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, *as fine as frost on the ground.* **15** So when the children of Israel saw *it*, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it *was*.

And Moses said to them, “This *is* the bread which the Lord has given you to eat.

Manna means, what is it?

God is providing something they know & something they don’t.

16 This is the thing which the Lord has commanded: ‘Let every man gather it according to each one’s need, one omer for each person, *according to the* number of persons; let every man take for *those who are* in his tent.’ ”

This is a daily gathering. It is according to their need and number.

17 Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less. **18** So when they measured *it* by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one’s need.

This is miraculous as well as generous.

John 6 tells us Jesus is the Bread of Life, the true bread from heaven.

19 And Moses said, “Let no one leave any of it till morning.” **20** Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.

Some of us learn the easy way, some the hard way.

Moses' anger is a theme in Exodus & a personal weakness.

21 So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted.

Manna required diligence.

22 And so it was, on the sixth day, *that* they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. **23** Then he said to them, “This *is what* the Lord has said: ‘Tomorrow *is* a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. Bake what you will bake *today*, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.’ ”

This is the first mention of Sabbath.

It was a day of rest, and holy or set apart to the Lord.

24 So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it. **25** Then Moses said, “Eat that today, for today *is* a Sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in the field. **26** Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none.”

The Sabbath had a spiritual provision and a personal choice.

27 Now it happened *that some* of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none. **28** And the Lord said to Moses, “How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws? **29** See! For the Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.” **30** So the people rested on the seventh day.

To rest in Him is one of the very first commands.

Jesus said, “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matthew 6:34).

31 And the house of Israel called its name [c]Manna. And it *was* like white coriander seed, and the taste of it *was* like wafers *made* with honey.

32 Then Moses said, “This *is* the thing which the Lord has commanded: ‘Fill an omer with it, to be kept for your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.’ ” **33** And Moses said to

Aaron, "Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the Lord, to be kept for your generations."

God wants them to remember His provision.

34 As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept. **35** And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan. **36** Now an omer *is* one-tenth of an ephah.

And the day after they ate from the produce of the land, the manna ceased. Since there was no more manna for the Israelites, they ate from the crops of the land of Canaan that year-**Josh 5:12**

**God provides every day until God provides...
...a way for them to provide for themselves.**

But don't forget the challenge was a test and a lesson.

Deuteronomy 8:2 And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you *and* test you, to know what *was* in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. **3** So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.