

Road Trip Part 1 *How Do You Know Who You Really Are?* Exodus 15:22-27 Message to Conversation Guide

Exodus 15:22-27

22 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. 23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) 24 **So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What are we to drink?”**

25 Then Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink. There the Lord issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. 26 He said, “If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you.”

27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the first hardship they faced after the Israelites left the Red Sea? How did they respond? How long had it been since they left the miracle at the Red Sea?

Exodus 15:22-24

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2. The Israelites are tested in the wilderness. Discuss how God’s tests are not to trip us up but to expose areas in our life where we do not trust him.

Deut. 8:2

10 Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble **and test you in order to know what was in your heart**, whether or not you would keep his commands. NIV

James 1:13

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” **For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;** NIV.

3. We complain because we are uncomfortable with some aspects of our lives. Read the following list of things we may complain about: Is there an area not listed that you are tempted to complain about?

- There is too much work to do.
- Annoying people.
- General inconveniences in life.
- Being treated unfairly
- Something we hoped would happen didn't happen.
- Lack of attention from the people we care about.

4. What should we do without complaining, according to the verse below?

Phil. 2:14

14 **Do everything without grumbling** or arguing, NIV.

5. How did Jesus respond to being hungry in the wilderness? How does this contrast with how the Israelites handled their time in the wilderness?

Matthew 4:1-11

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

6. Who did Moses turn to when he was under stress and pressure? What was the result? How could Moses have responded to the complaints of the people?

Exodus 15:25

25 Then **Moses cried out to the Lord**, and **the Lord showed him** a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink.

7. When we fail a test in our walk with the Lord, we get to repeat the test and try to do better next time. Read **Exodus 15:22-17:7** and discuss.