

50+ Class – All Saints Presbyterian Church
Winter-Spring 2021
The Life of Moses

Week 18 – *Earthly Emptiness, Heavenly Filling*

Exodus 15—The Song at the Sea ... Bitter Water

¹ Then Moses and the people of **Israel** sang this song to the **LORD**. “I will sing to the **LORD**, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider [chariot] he has thrown into the sea. ² The **LORD** is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him....”

²² Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went **into the wilderness of Shur**. They went **three days** in the wilderness and found **no water**. ²³ When they came to **Marah**, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore, it was named **Marah** [bitterness]. ²⁴ And the **people grumbled against Moses**, saying, “What shall we drink?” ²⁵ And he cried to the **LORD**, and the **LORD** showed him a **log** [tree], and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.

There the **LORD** made for them a statute and a rule, and there **he tested them**, ²⁶ saying, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the **LORD** your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the **LORD**, your healer.”

²⁷ Then they came to **Elim**, where there were twelve springs of **water** and seventy palm trees, and they encamped there by the water.

Our spiritual roots grow deeper the stronger that surrounding winds blow.

Exodus 16—Bread from Heaven

They set out from **Elim**, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of **Sin**, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the **fifteenth day of the second month after** they had departed from the land of Egypt. ² And the whole congregation of the people of **Israel grumbled** against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³ and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the **LORD** in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with **hunger**.”

⁴ Then the **LORD** said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain **bread from heaven** for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that **I may test them**, whether they will walk in my law or not. ⁵ On the **sixth day**, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be **twice as much** as they gather daily.” ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the **LORD** who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the **LORD**, because he has heard your **grumbling against the LORD**. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” ⁸ And Moses said, “When the **LORD** gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the **LORD** has heard your grumbling that **you grumble against him**—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the **LORD**.”

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the **LORD**, for he has heard your grumbling.’” ¹⁰ And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the **LORD** appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ And the **LORD** said to Moses, ¹² “I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘**At twilight** you shall eat **meat**, and in the **morning** you shall be filled with **bread**. Then you shall know that I am the **LORD** your God.’”

¹³ In the **evening quail** came up and covered the camp, and in the **morning dew** lay around the camp. ¹⁴ And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “**What is it?**” [man hu] For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to

them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."¹⁶ This is what the LORD has commanded: "Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an **omer** [2 quarts], according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent."¹⁷ And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less.¹⁸ But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.¹⁹ And Moses said to them, "Let **no one leave any** of it over **till the morning**."²⁰ But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it **bred worms and stank**. And Moses was angry with them.²¹ Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

²² On the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers each. And when all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses,²³ he said to them, "This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Tomorrow is a day of solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD; bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over **lay aside** to be kept **till the morning**.'"²⁴ So they laid it aside till the morning, as Moses commanded them, and it did **not stink**, and there were **no worms** in it.²⁵ Moses said, "Eat it 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, which is a Sabbath, there will be none."

²⁷ On the **seventh day** some of the people went out to gather, but they **found none**.²⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws?²⁹ See! The LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Remain each of you in his place; let no one go out of his place on the seventh day."³⁰ So the people rested on the seventh day.

³¹ Now the house of Israel called its name **manna**. It was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.³² Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Let an omer of it be kept throughout your generations, so 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 jar, and put an omer of manna in it, and place it before the LORD to be kept throughout your generations."³⁴ As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the testimony to be kept.³⁵ The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan.³⁶ (An omer is the tenth part of an ephah) [ephah = 3/5 bushel]

God's intervening, transformative grace makes pilgrimage possible with Him

A proper expression of Faith is Obedience, which is made possible by Faith

Exodus 17—Water from the Rock

All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at **Rephidim**, but there was **no water** for the people to drink.² Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you **test the LORD**?"³ But the people **thirsted** there for water, and the people **grumbled against Moses** and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"⁴ So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the **staff** with which you struck the Nile, and go.⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the **rock at Horeb**, and you shall **strike** the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.⁷ And he called the name of the place **Massah** [testing] and **Meribah** [quarreling], because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they **tested the LORD** by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Q & A / Discussion

Next Week: *Life of Moses—Part 2—Lessons for Leaders* (Week 6 of 6)—Last Class until 9/12/21