

The Miracle or The Message Week 3

'Provision or Provider'

4-26-26

Pattern throughout Scripture: People pursue God for **what He can do**, not **who He is**

This still happens today: We seek God in crisis, not in relationship. We want help - not surrender. Provision - not the Provider. Saving - not a Savior.

Common situations: storms in life. marriage struggles, wayward children, job loss, and sin struggles.

Key problem: treating God like a **911 call instead of a daily relationship**

Israelites

God's Faithfulness: 430 years in Egypt → slavery. They cry out → God responds. God sends Moses. 10 plagues → miraculous deliverance. God leads them: pillar of cloud (day), pillar of fire (night). Red Sea miracle: parts the sea, destroys their enemies

Initial Response

Exodus 14:31 - they feared the Lord and they trusted Him

But this didn't last

Complaint #1: Bitter Water

Exodus 15:22-24 3 days without water, they complained

God's Response: makes bitter water drinkable, leads them to Elim (12 springs)

Truth: God provided **beyond their need**

Key Observation: They saw miracles, provision, and presence. Yet still complained. We do the same: forget quickly, focus on what's missing, and ignore what God has done

Complaint #2: Food in the Wilderness

Exodus 16:1-3 - Desert of Sin (barren place), they complain again, desire to return to Egypt

Shocking Reality: 45 days after deliverance, willing to return to bondage

Spiritual Pattern: cry out to God, God delivers, hardship comes, we forget, and we drift back toward old bondage

Ongoing Cycle: Exodus 17 → complain about water again. Exodus 32 → golden calf (idolatry)

Root Issue: they wanted: God's miracles, not God Himself

The Test of Trust vs. Desire: God leads them into hard places intentionally. Purpose is it tests our faith, shapes character and reveal motives.

Final Warning: Numbers 11 Complaint About Manna

Numbers 11:4-6: God provided daily food. They said: "not enough", "we want more" "Egypt was better"

God's Response Numbers 11:18-20 "You want meat? You'll have it"

Result: Numbers 11:31-34 - quail provided in abundance and followed by judgment (plague)

Key Principle: sometimes God gives what we ask for: not as a blessing, but as a consequence

Powerful Truth: What you are asking for: may not help you and may actually harm you

Modern Application: We keep asking for more, move the target, stay dissatisfied. Possible reasons: poor stewardship, lack of surrender or focus on gifts instead of God

Core Issue: **It's not provision—it's surrender.** Israelites need obedience. Our need: the same

Final Truth: Discontentment comes from: focusing on provision over Provider. If God is enough: circumstances don't define contentment

Closing Challenge:

- Are you pursuing:
 - The miracle?
 - Or the message?
- Are your prayers:
 - For blessing?
 - Or something that may become a burden?
- Have you:
 - Forgotten what God has already done?
 - Desired what He delivered you from?
 -

Bottom Line:

If God Himself is enough, then no situation will ever make you feel like you lack anything.

APRIL 2026

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SHOE COLLECTION FOR ROMANIA

Please donate new shoes to bless the kids of Romania!

See the GO Table for any questions.



Last day to bring in Shoes is 4/30

Coming up:

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Thursdays @ 6:30am

Registrations are open,

Sign up!

Serve Sunday 5/17

Prayer and Praise 5/18

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