

Exodus 16

I. Intro

In our last lesson we watched as Israel's journey from Egypt began.

Paul wrote regarding this:

1 Corinthians 10:

*Now all these things happened to them as **examples**, and they were written for our **admonition**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*

Examples – *typos* – a stamp or an analogy. It speaks of a person, thing or event that prefigures something that will come later. We might even consider it as a “visual prophecy”

Paul points out that Israel's experience in the wilderness is a visual image of our walk with Christ

Admonition – encouragement or even correction.

The stories that we will look into will serve as a means to instruct us and even correct us as we walk with Christ. We should expect to be corrected.

Proverbs 3:12

*For whom the LORD loves He **reproves**, Even as a father **corrects** the son in whom he delights.*

Proverbs 12:1

*Whoever loves **instruction** loves knowledge, But he who hates **correction** is stupid.*

Proverbs 15:32

*He who disdains **instruction** despises his own soul, But he who heeds **rebuke** gets understanding.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for*

*instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be **complete**, thoroughly **equipped** for every good work.*

We want to be careful to allow the Spirit of God to use the Word of God to bring about correction in our life where we most need it.

Paul specifically points out 4 ways that God provided for them

- Being led by the fire and the cloud
- Passing through the Red Sea
- Manna
- Water from the Rock

Paul then alludes to 5 times when the people failed

- Lusting for quail
- Worshipping the calf
- Sinning with Moab
- Snakes
- Complaining about leadership

Then Paul gives a built in application for how to deal with the struggles we face

1 Corinthians 10:14

*Therefore, my beloved, **flee** from idolatry.*

Flee, is the same word Jesus used to describe the actions of a hireling when he saw a predator approaching the sheep.

John 10:12

***12** But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, **sees the wolf** coming and leaves the sheep and **flees**; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.*

Run like a wolf is chasing you

If we properly apply the teaching of Exodus we will remove ourselves from sin and sin from ourselves

One more thought

Israel's deliverance from Egypt and journey to Canaan is a picture of salvation for every believer.

There are obvious types that are pointed out in Scripture

- Passover – the cross
- Red Sea – baptism
- Water from rock – Living water found in Christ
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Others, while not pointed out by the New Testament authors seem to be clear illustrations of NT doctrines. We will be careful with these not to read into the text or to lose sight of the obvious meanings

II. Marah – where the waters are bitter

God did not lead Israel on the road most traveled. He took them off the beaten path and led them to places where they would come face to face with obstacles in order to learn things about walking with and trusting God.

The first stop east of the Red Sea was Marah – **bitterness**. The place was certainly named for the events that transpired here.

Exodus 15:22-24

*22 So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of **Shur**. And they went **three days** in the wilderness and found no water. 23 Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah.[a] 24 And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"*

The Wilderness of Shur – This is a vast, rugged and sparsely populated region in Sinai near the Eastern side of the Suez canal

3 days in the wilderness – The human body can only survive about 3 days without water. As they traveled they would be looking for a suitable place to water themselves and their flocks. As they approached the final drops from the canteens would be exhausted

They came to Marah – It seems that this was a location where they expected to find water. Springs in the area would provide ample water for the wanderers. The problem is when they arrived the waters had turned bitter or undrinkable.

Years ago I took a group of teenagers on a 3 day hike in the southern Sierra Mountains. We were surrounded by water, but it was contaminated and those who partook would contract Cholera, which causes dysentery, dehydration and can lead to death.

Israel was faced with a great difficulty. They were too far to turn back, out of water and unable to drink what was sitting right in front of them.

The People complained to Moses – It is often our first reaction to look to others to solve our problems, Moses shows his faith by turning directly to the Lord for guidance

Complaining is evidence that:

- We do not trust God for what is happening in our present circumstances
- We may even be in rebellion against what God wants to do in U.S.
- We are looking to the wrong source to solve the issues of life.

While Moses made his share of mistakes he seems to be pretty quick to turn his attention to YHWH when things begin to unwind around him

Exodus 15:25

*So he cried out to the Lord, and **the Lord showed him a tree**. When he cast it into the waters, **the waters were made sweet**. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them,*

The Lord showed him a tree – This is one of those beautiful OT passages that serve to illustrate the work of Christ. The main teaching of the Scripture is that Israel was out of water and God provided supernaturally for them. But there is also a prophetic illustration in the text; God, through the cross can repair a bitter life

Galatians 3:13

*Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a **tree**")*

1 Peter 2:24

*Himself bore our sins in His own body on the **tree**, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.*

The Tree Peter and Paul refer to is the cross where Jesus died to save us out of what the Bible calls “This perverse generation” (Acts 2:40) and This “Present evil age” (Gal 1:4) into what Jesus called “Abundant life (Jn 10:10)

There is no bitterness that cannot be made sweet by the cross of Christ

Exodus 15:26-27

“If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put **none of the diseases on you** which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I *am* the Lord who heals you.” Then they came to **Elim**, where there *were* **twelve wells** of water and **seventy palm trees**; so they camped there by the waters.

None of these diseases - Upon healing the waters to provide life for the people, God promises if they keep His commandments they will face none of the diseases that the Egyptians faced. There are a few important things to keep in mind.

- This is a conditional promise. If Israel obeyed the Lord they would find this to be true
- Some of the laws were dietary and a healthy diet can decrease our likelihood of suffering from many ailments. We have probably all heard our doctor encourage us to lay off Caffeine and fatty foods and we have all seen the warning label on cigarettes, although I am surprised at those who ignore it. If we make some changes in diet we are likely to improve our overall health
- That being said, this is not the subject of this text. Moses is not promising the people that if they obey dietary laws they will avoid diseases. He is telling them if they obey God they will avoid judgment. Remember the plagues that fell upon Egypt were a result of idolatry, immorality and the refusal to release Israel. The truth of this text is those who respond to the word of God will be set free from judgment that awaits those who don't.

We too can avoid judgment

Romans 5:9

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Then they came to Elim –

Elim means palms - it was named after the 70 palms that grew because of the natural water source. It was a refuge for Israel an actual oasis in the desert

David Guzik points out the following:

i. Elim was wonderful - a place of provision, with 12 wells and 70 palm trees. Yet there was no new revelation of God at Elim as there was at Marah, where God revealed Himself as Jehovah-Rapha.

ii. "Israel had no miracle at Elim. Wells and palm trees they had; but they had no miracle there, no miraculous change of the bitter into the sweet; and they had no statute, and no ordinance, and no promise, and no new revelation of God, and no new name for Jehovah there." (Spurgeon)

We are careful to avoid places like Marah and love to camp at our own version of Elim, but it important to remember that the miracle happened and the voice of God was heard in the bitter place.

III. **Manna – Bread from Heaven**

Exodus 16:1-3

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.

*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.”

Wilderness - the uninhabited places. Israel went from a tranquil place of beauty to a place not often trodden. God will take His people where others are unwilling to go. It is in the desert experiences that we really develop relationship with Christ

Philippians 3:10

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Fellowship is koinonia- meaning to share together. It is in our suffering where we truly begin to experience the promises of God. The problem lies when we fail to cling or once He delivers we neglect to remain walking close with Him

Fifteenth day of the second month – Israel has been in the wilderness for 30 days and their resources are running out. The provision taken from Egypt would not last much longer and the people began to worry about how they would survive. There is not much in the desert by way of food or water for a small caravan much less a vast hosts the size of the nation.

Complain - a word meaning to remain or lodge. Israel was living in a constant state of complaining. Nothing was good enough for them. When God provided one thing they found another thing wrong.

Spurgeon on put it like this:

It had yet to be demonstrated by testing whether the children of Israel were a worshipping people who occasionally murmured, or if they were a murmuring people who occasionally worshipped. Their true nature would be revealed in times of testing.

This is a test they failed. Rather than looking to God for how He might provide for them and for what He might teach them they only complained about the difficulty and cried out to others to remedy their problem

Sometimes giving someone something is not the solution to the problem they are facing.

Often when our eyes get off the Lord and unto our troubles we begin to think that life would be better without following Christ. For Israel had they not followed they would not be in the wilderness short on

food. However they would also not have seen the bitter turned sweet, the sea part or had their sins covered by the lamb. They would still be enslaved in Egypt under a harsh task master and watching as their children were being murdered. They also would never see Manna come, rocks split, rivers part, walls fall or see the glory of God fill a tent

Exodus 16:4-5

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."

Exodus 16:6-7

*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. 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?"*

Exodus 16:13-15

*So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. 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. 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.*

God's method of meeting the needs of the people was to supernaturally provide in a way that the desert was incapable of doing. He said this would be a way of revealing the glory of The Lord

God's glory is revealed in numerous ways

In the Cloud

Exodus 16:7

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?"

In the Word

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

In the Gospel

2 Corinthians 4:4

whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

In His Grace

Ephesians 1:6

to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

In the incarnation

Luke 2:14

*"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*

Here in this text we see it in His provision

Many of the miracles of Scripture have a backstory of providing for the needs of God's people

- Bitter water – Ex 15
- Manna – Ex 16
- NO water – Ex - 17
- WIDOW'S MEAL AND OIL- 1Kings 17
- Ravens feeding Elijah - 1Kings 17-18
- WATER PROVIDED - 2kings 3:16,
- Widows oil multiplies - 2Kings 4
- Death in the pot - 2Kings 4
- Ax head floats - 2Kings 5
- Fish for disciples - Luke 4
- Water to wine - John 2
- 5 loaves and two fish - Mark 6
- 4,000 fed – Mark 8

We work hard to never get into a situation where we are forced to need the supernatural then we wonder why we so rarely see the hand of God in our lives.

Instructions are now given regarding the gathering of the manna

Exodus 16:16

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.' "

Each household is to gather enough for each member of the family

Exodus 16:19

And Moses said, "Let no one leave any of it till morning."

All they received they were to partake, nothing was to be kept for the following day. This was done to emphasize the need for daily dependence upon God.

This may have been what Jesus was referring to when He told us to pray for our daily bread. We can find application to his in our need to rely upon the Lord daily as well as our need for the Word of God on a daily basis.

The system God set up had yearly retreats, monthly observances, weekly meeting and daily sacrifice. We should pattern our relationship with Christ after that. Daily in the Word, weekly in fellowship and special times of retreat from the affairs of life to focus on the kingdom

It is interesting to note that they ignored these instructions. They did not know God well enough to believe He would provide bread every day

Exodus 16:20-21

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

Notice the manna they kept over Became rotten

Also notice if they did not get up early the manna was gone. Without stretching this too far we can see an illustration of our daily devotional life. If we wait too long the day will melt away quality time with the Lord. I had a pastor that often reminded us that late nights take

away early mornings with God. We learned to give the first fruits of our morning to Jesus. A practice I still keep today.

Exodus 16:26

Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none."

Because God set aside the Sabbath as a day to rest, no manna would be found. They were to trust that what had rotted earlier would be preserved on Saturday.

Exodus 16:27

Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none.

Exodus 16:31

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

Moses takes a moment to describe the manna

Manna - what is it?

It was like a pastry that contained all the necessary vitamins to sustain the people throughout the wilderness journey

Moses put a portion away as a reminder to future generations of the miraculous provision of God

This is a hard lesson to pass on to others. When someone comes for help and they are counseled to trust the provision of God, every counselor here has been in a similar situation to those who are struggling, yet the message is still difficult to pass on. Moses wanted to have an illustration of why provision looked like