



God is unfair in our **favor**.  
It's called **grace!**

You don't realize God is all you **need**  
until God is all you **have**.

– Tim Keller –

<sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) <sup>24</sup>So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?"

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**TEST #1: Bitter Water**

<sup>24</sup>So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" <sup>25</sup>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.

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**TEST #1: Bitter Water**

<sup>26</sup>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." <sup>27</sup>Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water. –Ex. 15:22-27

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**TEST #1: Bitter Water**

My resources < My problems

*Anxiety*

My resources < My problems < My God

*Anxiety*

*Trust*

<sup>2</sup>In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. <sup>3</sup>The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."

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**TEST #2: No Food**

<sup>4</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. <sup>5</sup>On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

–Ex. 16:2-5

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**TEST #2: No Food**

One day.

One day.  
Sundown.

morning.

One day.  
Sundown.  
Every

morning.

One day.  
Sundown.  
Every

Daily.

morning.

One day.  
Sundown.  
Every

Daily.

Today!

<sup>1</sup>The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?"

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### **TEST #3: No Water**

<sup>3</sup>But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" <sup>4</sup>Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

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### **TEST #3: No Water**

<sup>5</sup>The Lord answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. –Ex. 17:1-6

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### **TEST #3: No Water**

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known,

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to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. <sup>4</sup>Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. <sup>5</sup>Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you. –Deut. 8:2-5

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We often struggle because we don't embrace a theology of **suffering**; we've embraced a theology of **entitlement**.

"Moses commanded them to take a tree and cast it into the waters, and they became sweet, so the Spirit of God, finding our natures bitter, takes **the tree of Calvary**, casts it into the stream, and everything is made pure."

– Charles Spurgeon –