

What is it?



Day 1

Sermon Sentence: God doesn't plan the end without planning the means.

Exodus 15:22-27

Exodus 16:1-3

Are we starting to see a pattern when looking at the Israelite behavior? When Moses first delivered God's plan they rejoiced and worshiped God and then when they were challenged with more work they complained to Moses and God. When God leads them out of Egypt they once again offer praise but when they are challenged by the Egyptian army they start to grumble again. When they are delivered from the Egyptian army by passing through a sea they rejoice but now we see other factors like thirst and hunger beginning to set in so they start to complain again! The Israelites are running between the extremes of faith and fear constantly and trying the patience of the Lord.

- At this point in the story can you relate to the viewpoint of the Israelite as each new problem presents itself? How do you think you would react?
- We read this story and it seems easy to criticize the Israelites for their lack of faith but unfortunately this same scenario plays out to some degree in each of our lives. Why? What prevents us from relying on God in faith?
- Many claim that God seemed angry in the Old Testament, do you see the work of an angry God or a loving patient God when dealing with the Israelites? Explain.
- Look at the story from God's perspective, what would be the most aggravating thing in your opinion in this story?
- How do we build our faith?

What is it?



Day 2

Sermon Sentence: God doesn't plan the end without planning the means.

Exodus 16:4-12

Have you ever planned for a short trip or even a vacation? When we try to plan out our needs that far in advance it can seem a little nerve racking. We are always worried we will forget something that we just can't do without for a few days and in general we are only concerned with our own needs or our own families. In the story of Exodus the Bible says that 600,000 men plus women and children left Egypt, some calculations put that upward of two million people! We have a big God indeed! Not only did he deliver those people out of Egypt but He was well aware of what each and every one of those two million people would need to survive in the wilderness. Now He just has to convince the Israelites....

- What is your opinion on the Israelite viewpoint that it is better to be a slave in comfort than free and hungry?
- What is the purpose of the test that God is setting up for the Israelites concerning the manna?
- Moses reiterates twice to the Israelites that they are not complaining about him but rather are directly complaining about the Lord. Why does he stress this?
- It is easy to remain prayerful and reliant on God during the lean times but do we do this well when we have plenty? Why or why not?
- Concerning this same concept, why do the rich often not rely on God? (1 Timothy 6:10)

What is it?



Day 3

Sermon Sentence: God doesn't plan the end without planning the means.

Exodus 16:13-20

So how do you feed two million people in a desert? God chose to send quail, the birds delivered themselves right to the Israelites to eat and in addition God provided bread from Heaven referred to as "manna". Of course God has provided exactly what the Israelites need but He is also testing the intentions of their hearts. He gives them very exacting instructions on the gathering of the manna to test them.

- Judging from experience in dealing with people in need, what do you think the behavior of the Israelites would be with this sudden influx of food?
- Why is God testing the Israelites by giving them instructions?
- Some gather a lot and some gather little but everyone has exactly what they need. What is God trying to instill in them?
- Why does the manna not keep past the day it is gathered?
- What is the purpose of gathering twice as much on Friday? This is the beginning of what commandment?

What is it?



Day 4

Sermon Sentence: God doesn't plan the end without planning the means.

Exodus 16:21-36

It is evident that the intent of the instructions concerning manna are twofold. One take only what you need don't try to hoard it because it won't last anyway and two trust the Lord there will be more tomorrow anyway. God has also introduced the Israelites to the idea of a day of rest. This day of rest is known as the weekly Sabbath observed on Saturday, it was first mentioned in Genesis when God rested from the work of creation and sanctified the seventh day. Eventually this will be reflected as the Fourth Commandment and is a shadow that is eventually fulfilled by Jesus as the eternal Sabbath. (Hebrews 4)

- Why do the Israelites not follow the instructions given?
- What human characteristics are they showing concerning the gathering of food?
- What is the dual purpose of the Sabbath command?
- What do you think about God's provision of manna after hearing the description of it and the fact that they ate it for 40 years?

What is it?



Day 5

Sermon Sentence: God doesn't plan the end without planning the means.

Life Application:

Perspective changes everything. The Israelites actually looked back at the days of slavery as the "good ole days!" They were complaining then. The days they were in were actually better days than they had experienced, but new problems always make old problems look like they were not such a big deal. Our perspective changes as we go through life. It could be that the very thing you are complaining about right now will one day be the thing you look back on and consider this time as the "good ole days."

Psalm 23:1

Philippians 4:19

Matthew 6:26

Hebrews 13:5

2 Corinthians 9:8-11

- God's provisions can be taken advantage of.
 - God's provisions will not overburden you.
 - God's provisions can muffle your complaints.
 - Hungry people complain! Kids starved of attention, complain. Marriages that are lacking something complain. Maybe we need to realize that the complaining people around us are really just needs that we are dropping the ball on.
 - Complainers complain to whomever will listen, not whomever is the problem.
 - Complaining is nothing more than declaring that God has not given you enough good for your liking.
 - God's provisions cannot be ordered from a menu. (God doesn't always provides our wants, but He always provides our needs)
 - God provides jobs but He doesn't go in everyday and do your job for you.
 - God's provisions are for now and for later.
 - God's provisions have rules. (Exodus 16:4)
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- After reading the above scripture and commentary take some time to identify some things God has provided in your life. How can you be more thankful and a better steward of the provisions God has provided?