

Exodus: No longer slaves – Part 10

Into the Wilderness

Exodus 15:22 - *Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur...*

Setting: Three days into the wilderness they could find no water. Finally they come to a pool, but the water was undrinkable. They Grumbled against Moses and God.

The purpose that God had in leading His people into the wilderness and doing wonders for them there is given in Deuteronomy 8:16: "... to humble you, and to test you, and to do you good in the end."

In Chapters 15, 16, and 17 we find 3 major tests. God tested their obedience and their devotion and He used the lack of water and food to train them.

There are triumphs and there are tests in this new life of ours, but remember God is always working for our good!

At Marah, only 3 days into the wilderness...

Exodus 15:25, 26 - *And he cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a log, 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 v.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."*

A New Rule for a New Life

1. Listen carefully for the voice of the Lord.
2. Do what is right in His eyes, not what seems right in yours.
3. You will find blessing and protection from the Lord.

God gave them a New Rule for a New Life: Hear and Obey

Paul, says in Colossians 3:9, 10 NIV, "... we are to take off our old self with its (old) practices and put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator."

First Test: Bitter Water (chapter 15)

Second Test: Hungry Stomachs (chapter 16)

Third Test: Water from the Rock (chapter 17)

The Second Test: A Table in the Wilderness

Exodus 16:1-4 - *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. v.2 And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, v.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." v.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.

Manna in the New Testament refers to our spiritual food in the wilderness of Life.

1 Corinthians 10:1-3 - For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. v.2 They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. v.3 They all ate the same spiritual food...

Manna is a type of Christ. He called Himself the Bread of Life!

Manna is also a foreshadowing of the Word of God.

Remember, in the His 40 day wilderness test, Jesus said to the devil who was tempting Him to turn stones into bread so He could eat (Matthew 4:4). Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

God's Word is what will sustain you in the wildest seasons of your life.

Five Powerful Realities Regarding Manna

- 1) The manna in the morning was a supernatural gift.

Exodus 16:4 - Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you..."

- a) Manna did not grow on a tree and it could not be manufactured in a lab. It was not something they brought out of Egypt; it came down from Heaven.

The Bible is not a manufactured book. It is a supernatural resource preserved by God to provide nutrition for our soul and strength for our journey.

- b) Incredible Provision

An "omer" was to be gathered for every one of these two million souls, and an "omer" is the equivalent of six pints. There would be twelve million pints, or nine million pounds gathered daily, which was four thousand five hundred tons. This is the equivalent of ten trains, each having thirty cars, and each car having in it fifteen tons, and that is what was needed for a *single* day's supply. Over a *million tons* of manna was gathered annually by Israel and remember that this continued for forty years!

- 2) The manna came right to where the people were.

Exodus 16:14, 15 - *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. v.15 When the people 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, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.*

The Israelites were in immediate danger of starving. The provision was made at the right time and brought just outside of their tent, but they had to gather it for themselves.

Just like the Word of God, it is easily accessible to you, but it has to be gathered, it should be gathered daily, and you will have to gather it for yourself.

3) The manna was white.

Exodus 16:31 - ... *It was like coriander seed, white...*

- a) White is the emblem of purity.
- b) The words of the Lord are pure words.

Psalm 12:6 - *The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.*

Proverbs 30:5 NKJV - *Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.*

- c) The word of the Lord produces purity in us.

Ephesians 5:25, 26 - ... *Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, v.26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word...*

4) The manna was to be eaten.

- a) The manna was not given simply to look at, or admire, but to be eaten. But in order to gain the nutriment we require, we need to learn how to feed on the Bread of Life.
- b) Three Factors for Feeding:
 - i) Appropriate
 - (1) Example: When we sit down at a well-spread table, it is apparent that we cannot eat everything on the table and neither is it required of us. We will need to choose for ourselves an appropriate amount from the larger portions set before us.
 - (2) It is the same way with our spiritual manna.
 - (a) The Word of God is exhaustless in its contents. There is far more in it than ever I can possibly assimilate. I must take an appropriate portion for the needs of my spiritual man.
 - (b) To appropriate means to "take unto yourself" or "to make your own".

Just as we appropriated the Savior, so we need to appropriate the promises and the precepts—of God’s Word.

- (i) Believe every word.
- (ii) Claim every promise.
- (iii) Obey every command.

ii) Meditate

- (1) We must meditate on the manna of God’s word.

Joshua 1:8 - This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

This word “meditate” means to think, dwell on, or ponder.

Meditation is for reading while mastication (to chew) is for eating.

- (2) Meditation is the process of getting God’s Word from our heads to our hearts.

Meditation: Memorize and Emphasize

Philippians 4:13 - *I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

- (i) **(I)** can do all things through him who strengthens me.
- (ii) I **(can do)** all things through him who strengthens me.
- (iii) I can do **(all things)** through him who strengthens me.
- (iv) I can do all things **(through him)** who strengthens me.
- (v) I can do all things through him **(who strengthens)** me.
- (vi) I can do all things through him who strengthens **(me)**.

iii) Assimilate

Assimilation is where our spiritual manna becomes powerful.

- (1) In the physical, you can easily see what difference a meal can make to one’s body after a prolonged absence of food. It works in the spiritual the same way.

Many people are weak spiritually because they have not been assimilating God’s Word.

- (2) Regarding my spirit man, the word that I have taken into my soul, if properly digested, will build up the new nature. It will nourish faith and supply the needed strength for my daily walk and service.

It will also be a safeguard against the germs of temptation which try to overwhelm me: "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11).

5) The manna was a test of their obedience.

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. (16:4)

a) The manna was to be gathered daily.

- i) The manna which Israel gathered today would not suffice for tomorrow. A new supply must be secured each day. This was a test of obedience and faithfulness.
- ii) What would you think of a man who sat down to his Sunday dinner and tried to eat, at one meal, enough to last him for the whole week?

b) The manna had to be gathered in the morning.

Once again, God does not waste words in the Bible.

- i) The manna melted away when the sun got hot.
- ii) The Holy Spirit is showing us how that gathering our spiritual good should not be an after thought. Rather, it should be a priority.

c) The manna was obtained by labor.

Manna did not fall into their mouths; it fell around their tent. They had to use diligence to gather it.

Conclusion:

1) The mixed multitude despised the manna. They could not be satisfied with God's ways.

Numbers 11:4-6 NKJV - Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? v.5 We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; v.6 but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!

2) Today the church is filled with a mixed multitude of priorities.

How about you? Are you still dealing with a little too much Egypt?