

Trusting the Lord

Exodus 15:22-27 (NKJV)

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. 24 And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" 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, 26 and said, "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." 27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

After the Red Sea crossing it is time to be on their way.

So they travel three days journey and find no water in the wilderness that they can drink for it is bitter.

So they once again complain to Moses instead of taking the matter directly to God.

So Moses cries out to God and the Lord answers.

Have you notice that the children of Israel are like on this roller coaster. Up and down and around they go but if you stay on the ride you will go past the same places over and over again.

That is often what life is like. Good times come and they the bad times. Exciting time come followed by times of disappointment and depression. Life is filled with bipolar patterns.

Later they become hungry and complain to God. Once they have that, they complain when they again run out of water.

So let us see what we can discover about ourselves this morning as we look at the children of Israel in their wanderings.

1Co 10:11 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.

I. Into the wilderness

- A. 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.
- B. As one person said the wilderness is a place for travelers, no one but crazy people would try to live there.
 - 1. But you see we are all now in the wilderness of this world.

2. How could we be happy in a world that hates God.
 3. But some have settled in.
 4. Psalm 49:11 (NKJV) 11 Their inner thought is that their houses will last forever, Their dwelling places to all generations; They call their lands after their own names.
- C. The crossing of the Red Sea was a type of our baptism after our salvation, but then we are in the wilderness.
1. 1 Cor 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
 2. We are only pilgrims here traveling through to a better place.
- D. Going through the wilderness is meant to help us with two things.
1. For us to know how weak we are.
 - a. Three days before they were praising God for His provision.
 - b. Jesus upbraided the disciples for their lack of faith when they came and woke Him as He slept during the storm.
 - c. On another occasion Jesus lamented their lack of faith.
 - d. Mr 9:19 He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me."
 2. For us to know how great God is.
 - a. He is full of mercy toward our rebellion.
 - b. He provides our needs.
 - c. He keeps us looking to Him.
- II. 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. 24 And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"
- A. "The waters of Marah tested the heart of Israel and developed their murmuring spirit; but the Lord showed them that there was no bitterness which He could not sweeten with the provision of His own grace." C.H. Macintosh
- III. 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.
- IV. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them. And there He tested them, 26 and said, "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."

- V. 27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters

The sad part of this story is that they had learned nothing here. In chapter 16 they think God is going to allow them to starve to death.

V- 3 And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

And then later even as the bread comes day by day, they think that God is going to kill them with thirst.

17: 3 And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

Where is our faith?

How does our faith stand in trials?