

NOTES:

SERIES: God Delivers (Gospel Project)

SERMON 3: "The Wilderness Test"

TEXT: Exodus 17:1-7; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6

DATE: January 14/15, 2017

3 QUESTIONS WHEN IN A WILDERNESS

1. Do we believe we are _____ God's provision?
Exodus 17:1-2; Philippians 2:14-15

Israel's pattern of complaining: Exodus 2:23; 14:11-12; 15:23-24; 16:2-3; 17:3-4)

"Entitlement gets us nothing but heartache. It blinds us to what's possible. It insulates us from the magic of gratitude. And most of all, it lets us off the hook, pushing us away from taking responsibility (and action) and toward apportioning blame and anger instead. ...There's a simple hack at work here: We're not grateful because we're happy. We're happy because we're grateful." (Seth Godin)

"Discontent is a sin that is its own punishment and makes men torment themselves; it makes the spirit sad, the body sick, and all the enjoyments sour; it is the heaviness of the heart and the rottenness of the bones. It is a sin that is its own parent. It arises not from the condition, but from the mind." (Matthew Henry)

Gratitude spreads _____.

2. Do we believe God is _____?
Exodus 17:3-4; Rom. 8:28-29; 5:3-4; James 1:3; Psalm 73

"Going through the wilderness was not necessary for Israel's salvation, but it was necessary for their sanctification." (Philip Ryken)

God isn't just interested in getting them out of slavery; he wants to get them out of their slavery mindset.

Psalm 73

3. Do we believe God is _____?
Exodus 17:5-7; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6

“Remember our history, friends, and be warned. All our ancestors were led by the providential Cloud and taken miraculously through the Sea. They went through the waters, in a baptism like ours, as Moses led them from enslaving death to salvation life. They all ate and drank identical food and drink, meals provided daily by God. They drank from the Rock, God’s fountain for them that stayed with them wherever they were. And the Rock was Christ. But just experiencing God’s wonder and grace didn’t seem to mean much—most of them were defeated by temptation during the hard times in the desert, and God was not pleased. The same thing could happen to us. We must be on guard so that we never get caught up in wanting our own way as they did.” (1 Corinthians 10:1-6; The Message)

Gospel Application

- Heed the _____.
- Trust in God’s _____.
- Practice _____.
- S_____ the water with those who are thirsty.
- Remember only Christ, the _____, is your salvation.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. As we think of an area where our family needs God’s guidance, what expectations can we have of God regarding this?
2. God intended to train and form His people during their years in the wilderness. In what ways might God be training our family when we walk through difficult times?
3. In what ways does grumbling about our circumstances hurt our witness to friends and other family members?

CHRIST CONNECTION

Moses struck the rock instead of the people, and water flowed for the people’s salvation. Jesus is the Rock who was struck for our salvation, the Rock whose living water satisfies us forever.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week’s sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What are some of the life experiences that teach us things we cannot learn elsewhere?
3. Read Exodus 17:1-2. How is grumbling related to a sense of entitlement?
4. Read Exodus 17:3-4. God intended to train and form his people during their time in the wilderness. In what ways might God be training you as you walk through difficult times?
5. Read Psalm 73. In this particular Psalm, what is the Psalmist’s antidote to grumbling against the Lord?
6. Read Exodus 17:5-7 and 1 Corinthians 10:1-6 (see the Message translation from the outline). Where is the grace for us and the warning for us from Israel’s wilderness experience?
7. Read Philippians 2:14-15. What is the connection between grumbling and our mission to the world?

Philippians 2: ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,
8. Looking back over this week’s sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What is God’s plan?