

## **Living through the Word in the Big stuff & the Small**

**Exodus 15 & 16 - Pastor Guy Gray**

### **The Miracle of Redemption & the Challenge of Everyday Faith**

After the miracle at the Red Sea —the miracle of redemption— the Israelites were filled with faith. (Exodus 14:31.) They sang their praises to God and marveled at his power, victory and love. (Exodus 15:1-21.) Unfortunately, all it took was three days of difficulty to turn their praises into negativity, complaining and bitterness. (Exodus 15:22-27.) It was just a three day journey from fullness of faith to a complete breakdown of faith in the LORD. We are tempted to laugh at this amazing roller coaster ride of faith and unbelief —until we take stock of our own experience of faith and unbelief. How quickly we can go from singing praises in faith, to doubt and despair.

Once again we must remember that it was God himself who was leading them on this journey. He led them to this place of crisis for a specific purpose. There is a crucial lesson that must be learned in the journey of freedom, identity and purpose in Christ. It is a lesson that goes hand in hand with the miracle of Redemption —it is the lesson of everyday faith. Strangely, this lesson seems every bit as difficult a challenge as it was to trust God for the miraculous crossing at the Red Sea and the defeat of the army of Pharaoh!

### **The Life of Faith: A blend of the “big” and the “small”**

At the Red Sea, the Israelites had to trust God for something huge, amazing and unusual - —something beyond imagination. At the Red Sea it was a once in a lifetime kind of thing they had to trust for. But at Marah they had to trust God for water —something small and ordinary— a daily life kind of thing. It seems that God wanted to put these two lessons of the life of faith side by side. Jesus did the same when he taught us to pray! In the Lord’s Prayer we are taught to pray: “Let your kingdom come, let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” But then the very next thing is this: “Give us this day our daily bread!” So we go from a huge, amazing, very “spiritually high” sort of prayer to a prayer for the “small thing,” the “daily need.” God wants us to develop a faith that covers both the big issues of life and the daily stuff of life as well. That is the only way we can continue to move forward with God.

### **When the “small stuff” eats away at your faith and your spiritual life**

Exodus 15:22-17:7 is all about the struggle to trust God for all the daily details of life. If we don’t, then our focus will be turned away from

God's glory, His purpose, His plan, His promises, His great works for our salvation (The deliverance from Egypt for the Israelites; the death and resurrection victory of Jesus for us). Instead we will be stuck in unbelief, negativity and bitterness —focused on our immediate needs and wants, going nowhere with God. This is why in the New Testament Jesus calls us to trust God for all the daily stuff of life and then make it our focus to “seek first His Kingdom.” (Matthew 6:33.)

### **We live by every word of God**

Deuteronomy 8:1-5 puts this whole incident in a very interesting light. God says that all of these events were designed to test the Israelites, to reveal their hearts. There was a key lesson in all this: we are not to live by “bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Deuteronomy 8:3). Jesus quoted this very passage when He was tempted by Satan with regard to His basic needs for food in the wilderness. (Matthew 4:1-4.) We learn through this that only by faith in God can we get past our obsession with our needs & wants and stay focused on the LORD, His Word, His will, His plan and purpose.

For more on this principle and this passage see: Psalm 78:15-20; Psalm 95:7-10; Hebrews 3:7-10.

### ***Further Personal Reflection***

Spend some time writing about what the Lord spoke to you about through the Sermon?

### **Struggles of Everyday**

This week we learned about the challenge of dealing with the everyday struggles of life. Why is it easier to see God in the big stuff rather than the little? Have you ever had a “mountain top” experience in your Spiritual life that was quickly followed by a valley? What was that like? How did God work in your life through it? What did you learn?

### **God is There**

The bible tells us that God is constantly at work in the details of life for our benefit. Read Deut. 8:1-5 & Rom. 8:28:32. What do these passages teach about God's activity in our lives?

### **Your Daily Bread**

Spend some time considering the everyday challenges of faith that you experience. What challenges or discourages you or causes negativity & bitterness? Make a list & then pray & invite the Lord to be the Redeemer of your daily life, your daily bread.