



MIGHTY MEN

Mid-Week Bible Study – Living Life in 3D

Week Nine: Let the Murmuring Begin!

I. A Song in Their Heart! – Exodus 15:1-21

- After God miraculously saved them from the Egyptian army...
- The people break out into song
- They sing loud and long
- This are some pretty happy, confident Hebrews

II. A Complaint On Their Lips – Exodus 15:22-27

Three days later...THEN

A. From dancing to disappointment

- Remember! God is leading them
- Then why did He lead them to a place with no water?
- If God could part the Red Sea, couldn't He have taken them straight to the Promised Land?

“Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands..”

– Deuteronomy 8:2 NLT

- God puts us in the wilderness to test us
- He wants to stretch our spiritual muscles
- The wilderness was going to expose their weaknesses
- The wilderness tends to reveal the truth about ourselves
- It also lets us see the patience and power of our

God

1. No water

- Their first stop was a disappointment
- It was not what they expected
- After the Red Sea, they expected an easy road

“O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water.” – Psalm 63:1

2. Bitter water

- The next stop was even worse
- It offered up undrinkable water
- It was wet and appealing, but couldn't quench thirst

B. From disappointment to dissatisfaction

- The people were not happy
- They let their circumstances get the best of them
- They end up complaining

“Then the people complained and turned against Moses. ‘What are we going to drink?’ they demanded.” – Vs 24

complained – to murmur, to express resentment, dissatisfaction, anger and complaint an act of rebellion, disbelief and disobedience to duly constituted authority

- They did not like their lot in life

C. From dissatisfaction to divine intervention

- In spite of their complaining, God shows mercy
 - He does not give them what they do deserve
- He also shows grace
 - By giving them what they don't deserve
- The pillar of fire and cloud had led them there
- God can turn the bitter into sweet

D. From divine intervention to diligent obedience

- Diligently obey
 - Do what is right in His eyes
 - Give ear to His commandments
 - Keep His statutes
 - Obedience would bring blessing
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- **A habit of complaining**
 - Did they learn? NO
 - Chapters 16 and 17 record two more tests
 - God had just turned bitter water into sweet water
 - He then led them to an oasis with wells and water

- 40 later, their satisfaction would prove short-lived

A. The test of satisfaction

“There, too, the whole community of Israel complained about Moses and Aaron.” – Exodus 16:2

1. The people complain

- Their complaint focused on the physical
 - They claimed not to have enough food
 - But they had an abundance of sheep, cattle and goats
- Their complaint was based on lies
 - Things had not been better in Egypt
- Their complaint was the result of dissatisfaction
 - With God’s plan
 - With God’s leader

2. God responds

- Once again, He does not give them what they deserve
- He gives them manna and quail
- But He also reveals His glory – Vs 7
 - “the sheer weight, gravity of His divine presence”
 - God would reveal Himself through His provision
- So they would know Him

“In the evening you will have meat to eat, and in the morning you will have all the bread you want. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.” – Exodus 16:12

B. The Test of Patience – Exodus 17:1-7

- Once again, God is going to lead them to a specific spot

1. No water

“Now there was no water for the people to drink.” – Vs 1

- They’ve run out of water
- They start quarreling with Moses

quarrel – verbal combat, to contend or strive with

2. No patience

“Give us water to drink!” – Vs 2

- They’ve gone from whining to demanding
- They’ve run out of patience
- Didn’t even wait to see what God would do

3. No faith

“Why are you testing the Lord?” – Vs 2

test – to test, tempt, try, prove

- By doubting that God was truly in their midst
- By demanding that He demonstrate His presence

4. No problem

“Strike the rock, and water will come gushing out. Then the people will be able to drink.”

– Vs 6

- Once again, God shows mercy and grace
- In the midst of their lack of patience and faith, God proves His provision and power

III.A failure to see

- God had delivered them
- He was leading them
- He was going with them
- He was providing for them
- But they failed to SEE Him
- They questioned His presence

“Do not be stubborn like they were at Meribah, like they were that day at Massa in the wilderness, where your ancestors challenged my authority, and tried my patience, even though they had seen my work.” – Psalm 95:8-9

- Unbelief challenges God
- They refused to believe in the power of God
- They would find themselves powerless in the wilderness
- They had every reason to believe, but did not
- They refused to take God at His word



Mid-Week Bible Study – Living Life in 3D
Week Ten: “Post-Commandment Anxiety Complex.”

The Law. The Decalogue. The Tablets of Stone. The Ten Commandments. No matter what you call them, they conjure up all kinds of images for most of us. There’s that memorable scene of Charlton Heston standing on the rock, white beard flowing in the breeze, clutching those two large stone tablets in his hands. We even have a miniature pair of stone tablets in our home to hang on the wall. But do we really understand the significance of these “ten words”? Do we take them seriously? Do we obey them or even think we need to? This week our goal is to study these ten important words from God and attempt to come to grips with their importance to our lives as 21st-Century Christians. Did Christ’s coming do away with the Law? Are we not obligated to keep the Law? Let’s see what the Word of God has to say.

Day One

We often think of God speaking only to Moses and giving *him* The Ten Commandments. Read Exodus 20:18-23. What do these verses tell you about God giving The Law? _____

Read Exodus 20:1. According to this verse, to whom are the words that will follow to be attributed? _____

Read Exodus 20:2. How does God describe Himself right from the beginning? _____

Why do you think God described Himself this way? _____

Day Two

Read Exodus 20:3-17. Write out in your own words the Ten Commandments:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Day Three

Read Exodus 20:2-7 again. What does this section have to say about Israel's *worship*?

Read Exodus 20:8-11. What does this section have to say about Israel's *work*? _____

Read Exodus 20:12-17. What do these commandments have to say about Israel's *walk*?

Day Four

Read Exodus 20:18-21. What is the response of the people as God is speaking? _____

Why do you think they are afraid to hear from God directly? _____

What does Moses tell them in verse 20 is the reason for God's presence? _____

Why do you think Moses responded differently to the sights and sounds and how the people responded? _____

Day Five

Read Deuteronomy 5:1-5. How did God speak to the people according to Moses? _____

Deuteronomy 5:6-21 reiterates the commandments given that day at the mountain. Now read verses 22-24. In verse 24, what do the people say about the glory of the Lord? _____

Read verses 25-27. What do the people tell Moses they are willing to do?

Read verses 28-29. What does God have to say about their supposed willingness to obey the Law? _____
