

“In Search For More”

Exodus 16:1-36

Series: The Way Home Week 1

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Good morning Church family. I just wanted to welcome all of you joining us in person and online. I wanted to give a special welcome to those that are joining us for the first time. We want you to know that you belong before you believe. Meaning that the moment you walk through those doors you are family.

If everyone could please stand up (if you're able) and give a high five to 3 people around you. Once you're done with that please remain standing for me. Let me pray for us this morning [PRAYER]. You may be seated.

Last week Pastor Doug gave an amazing message opening up our new series called “The Way Home.” This is where we are journeying through the book of Exodus following the Israelites as they leave Egypt and make their way into the promise land. And don't worry if you missed last week's message you can access it on our website or YouTube and watch it there. Today we can open up to Exodus 16. If you have your Bibles or your phones you can open to that now. I also recommend taking notes and for those that do my title today is “In Search For More.”

As you turn to Exodus, I want to share that if diving into the Bible is something that you're interested in our class called Bible 101 is starting next Sunday during the 9am service. And since it's during the 9am service there will be child care provided!

Again we are reading from Exodus 16.

Exodus 16:1–5 “1 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. 2 And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, 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.” 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. 5 On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.””

Exodus 16:13–20 “13 In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. 14 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. 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. 16 This is what the Lord has

commanded: 'Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.' 17 And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. 18 But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat. 19 And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over till the morning." 20 But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them."

When we think of our own lives and what they're surrounding we have endless examples of looking and longing for more. When we're a teenager we can't wait to get our permit...then it's our license, then it's graduating high school then college. Then we graduate from college and look for a job and then look for a better paying job because the family we want needs that support. There's nothing wrong with that but our search for more comes from a life that's feels unfulfilled. Teenagers I see that they're in search for more and more. To be popular to have the best clothes or the highest grades. I see it in adults where their image and who their family is to people matters most. I see people who look at their life and see how others are living and see how much "better" others lives are

As you can see and probably relate you can look back on your life and see that there were times when the things of life were not satisfactory and you were in search for more. This happens to all of us but just as we will see in a second the Israelites struggled with the same things.

Exodus 16:1-5

"1 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. 2 And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness,

To understand the passage deeper we have to understand the context. It says that "all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin." It is believed that before this when they were in Elim they were in different encampments of the Israelites but as they were in the wilderness they came together to be one body.

Understanding where they are as a group is one thing but seeing where they are in the grand scheme of their journey is another. They are currently in between Elim and Sinai. They left Elim a place of joyous rest and freedom and are heading towards Sinai a place of stern law. It is here our story begins.

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."

This is a pattern that we will see before, now, and will see later. The Israelites are constantly comparing where they are to where God is taking them. They are romanticizing their stay in Egypt when they were the ones that complained about being there. They like us can become forgetful. We can look at where we are and where we came from and wish things were different but we ought not to forget what God is doing and where God is taking us.

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.

Whenever you hear God say He is going to test His people we better watch out because we know that judgement always follows testing. But what’s important is the instructions. God’s instructions are always pretty simple. But what is God testing here? God is testing their trust in Him and the obedience of His word.

On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.’”

I always love when we talk about God’s timing. Because He is never late. Right in the midst of their need and faithlessness God offers His strength and sustenance.

****When we are at our lowest God is always His greatest****

Meaning that when we are having a hard day and trusting God that things are going to work out is hardly an option He hears you and provides.

Verse 5 tells us that effort was required to prepare and collect. By natural means and by the sweat of our brow, gives us our daily bread. Jesus in the NT says He is the bread of life. And this manna was their bread of life. But just because God provided it didn’t mean that he was going to prepare it for them. They had effort on their end. Some of us don’t understand this when it comes to our relationship with God. When we are in relationships with God we are to have effort poured into it. Just having Jesus in our lives bears zero fruit. It is just like if the Israelites didn’t prepare anything. God drops raw quail on their front door step and they never picked it up. When God is showing up in your life He wants to speak to you and teach you and show you. But you have to trust Him and put in the effort. Small steps are filling yourself with the daily bread as we say in the Lord’s prayer. Filling yourself with trust in God for today through prayer, bible reading, or listening to sermons.

Exodus 16:13–20

“13 In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. 14 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. 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. 16 This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’ ” 17 And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. 18 But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.

When we look at what the Israelites had scripture tells us it was a flake-like thing and like frost [show frosted flakes]. This is what I like to think it was like. This represents what God provided: frosted flakes—and some of us in the room are saying “without milk.” Yes without milk. and the Israelites didn’t like it just like some of you. They probably compared it to the loaves of bread

they had back in Egypt and how delicious they were when they were made fresh. They may have looked something like this [show white loaf of bread]. Growing up this was the bread that I was always searching for not whole wheat or rye. White bread. It is soft and fluffy, and makes a mean PB & jelly sandwich. But this is often what we do. We have what God's provided in one hand and just out of reach is what we really desire. What we think God is keeping from us. So we complain and give up on what God is trying to give us. Or we quit during a season where God is trying to teach us.

****God's provisions are greater than our own****

A CALL OF REFLECTION: Some of you have not heeded the Lord's word. Although He's shown you miracle after miracle you still lack total commitment and loyalty. I also know there are some of you in here that have been praying for one miracle after another and have heard nothing, just silence. I want to speak to those individuals for a second: God loves you, knows your needs, and only asks that you trust Him.

****What God provides is always enough.****

And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over till the morning." 20 But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them."

The Israelites again are trying to take things into their own hands. They are being selfish and disobedient. The Israelites selfishness in collecting Manna reflects towards our selfishness in our lives

God has gifted you with singing, teaching, preaching, discipling, and you have only your best interest at heart. That is what we see the Israelites doing here. They are hoarding their gifts from God. This made Moses angry and I'm positive that this makes God angry when we do it too. Our gifts whether its a spiritual gift, a physical gift, the gift of singleness, or the gift of marriage. God knows what we need and what season we're in. Yes He wants to hear about your frustrations and what's upsetting you but He has you right where He wants you. Just trust Him. We don't need to hold tightly to the things that God's given us because doing that will cause it to spoil. We have to grab hold but understand that we are not in control.

For some of us there is a longing written deep within us to want to belong or to be noticed or to be the cool coworker or the popular student. These are areas where we are in search for more.

God knows and understands the human experience. He knows what its like to be frustrated, angry, to cry and weep. To be left lonely and to have plenty of people around.

****He knows the desires of our hearts and we need to meet Him there.****

When we look at our lives we have to understand that each and every day that we are alive God is trying to provide something in our lives. Whether it's patience, guidance, or learning to love the people you work with that frustrate you. God is constantly moving. He always provides enough for what we need but the question I want to leave you with is: are you in search for more or are you satisfied with where God has you knowing that He is trustworthy.

Pray with me.