

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

2/24/19

Text: Exodus 15:22-27

Title: To Marah is Test Day

Teacher: Shayne Bass

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In Shayne's sermon we looked at God bringing the people of Israel to the bitter waters of "Marah". After displaying His power and authority to His people, by raising up Moses, calling out His people, pouring out the 10 plagues, leading Israel out of Egypt and through the Red Sea, now He was putting them to the test. As Shayne said, God was not trying to get them to fail or rubbing their nose in their weakness, He was trying to reveal what was in their hearts. As we saw, instead of crying out to God in reliance and faith, they grumbled to Moses. In the midst of our bitterness we fail to remember what God has done, we fail to believe He will save us, we fail to depend on God to get us out, and we fail to enjoy all that God is doing by living humbly reliant on him. The beauty of the gospel is even in the midst of our grumbling, God takes the bitterness of our wilderness and makes it sweet, not by improving our lives, or fixing our circumstances, but by giving us the one thing we always needed anyway...more of Him.

Reflection Questions:

1. Shayne said that God uses the bitterness of the "wildernesses" in our lives to reveal our hearts, and to break our addictions to this world. Our problem is that we fail to ask Him for His help, and instead we grumble and complain.
 - **What "wilderness" has God led you into that has led you to grumbling?**
 - **How have you relied on yourself or things of this world to make it all better?**
2. Shayne said God doesn't fix the people's situation and make their lives better, He instead leads them to a place where they realize all they need is Him. He doesn't remove the wilderness, He takes the bitterness out of it and makes it sweet.
 - **When have you expected the solution to your problem to be a change in the circumstance or action, rather than a changing in your heart?**
 - **How have you seen God take the bitterness of a hard situation and make it sweet?**
3. Shayne said God's ultimate goal is for us to Remember what He's done, to Believe He'd do them again, Depend on Him to save us, and Enjoy the journey along the way.
 - **Which of those is hardest for you to do in the midst of your wilderness?**
 - **Where are you still waiting for the bitterness to be made sweet? (Pray and ask Him to do it).**

The Facilitator

WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community *(My Neighbor)*

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

- 1. Where have you seen God turn a sour situation sweet (internal brokenness/external circumstances)? Praise Him, Father Son and Spirit for granting you grace.*
- 2. What good thing has God done for you, that you often forget when you face difficulties? Confess your forgetful, faithless, grumbling instinct and pray that He would grant you repentance.*
- 3. Can you recall a time recently that God reminded you of His goodness before you indulged in some temptation to sin, and by grace spared you from that sin? Thank Him for His work of grace upon grace in your life!*
- 4. What trial or difficulty are you most aware of in your life (internal or external)? Ask Him to grant you an awareness of His "with-ness in your wilderness" and pray that you might see this time as an adventure in faith with Him.*