

“Complaining in the Wilderness”

Exodus 16: 1 – 4

The children of Israel were approximately two months out of Egypt on their way to the promised land and they got hungry and began to complain against Moses and Aaron. The people said it would have been better to die in Egypt where they had enough food rather than to come out here in the wilderness and starve. God heard the complaining and He told Moses He would send manna from heaven each morning for the people and they should gather enough for each day. We see three facts in this mighty act of God, the miracle of the manna.

1. A token. It would have been easy for God to take the rod to His complaining children, but rather He sought to win them by loving patience and His long-suffering love. Even to these untrusting, unbelievers, we see the miracle of manna as a token of God’s great patience and long-extended grace.
2. A test. The manna became a test because it was given daily and only enough for that day could be gathered. The over-riding lesson here is that God’s provisions are new and fresh every morning, teaching us about habitual dependence on God. Remember, Jesus prayed, “Give us this day our daily bread.” The happiest people are not people who have no needs, but people who experience the meeting of their needs by God. Another lesson we learn here is that some things cannot be stored up for tomorrow. Love – expressions every day in word and actions, character – live right every day, forgiveness – offered every day to those in need. Yesterday’s manna is no good today.
3. A truth. Manna speaks of God’s eternal word, so search His word every day for spiritual nourishment. Manna is a type of Christ, nourishing the Christian on their earthly pilgrimage, and we need to seek Christ who is the “Bread of Life.” He is indeed a satisfying provision, a sufficient provision, and a sustaining provision and we can gather from His storehouse each new day.

Christ is indeed our all in all if we trust Him to meet our daily needs.

Consider: I might have told the Israelites to

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