

Lessons in Wilderness University

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Exodus 15:22-27

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

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Why study Exodus? ¹ Cor 10:1-12 – *written down for our instruction*

Exodus

God delivered miraculously from bondage
He destroyed enemy who sought bondage
Taken on long pilgrimage to Promised Land

New Covenant

God has delivered by cross from bondage of sin
Destroyed power of Satan who sought bondage
Living out our lives in sanctification until we are glorified

WSC Q#32: What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life? A: They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.

WSC Q#35: What is sanctification? A: Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

Lesson: e are God's church and we are now living in the wilderness between the 1st & 2nd comings of Christ. Christ delivered us at the cross... He will come again!

- Tests & Trials are part of our journey: Act 14:19-23 [v22] and they are designed to teach us to depend upon God alone & trust Him! Jms 1:2-4

Complaining right after deliverance 22-24

- Israelites complained & grumbled
- Moses cried out to God for help
- God wants us to come to Him in dependence and trust.
1 Pet 5:6-7; Jn 14:27; Psa 55:22; Heb 13:5-6; Prv 3:5-6
- Too often our Marah's become so big we forget our deliverance & Elims

APPLY: Is there bitterness in your life that you have pulled out of ministry, lost joy in your life, quit walking in faith & dependence upon God? Heb 12:15

What comes out of mouth (actions) proceeds from the heart - Mt 15:18-20

Cry out to God for Help - He answers 25

- Moses cried out in prayer for help - God provided wood
- God has often provided wood to comfort His people:
 - ▶ Tree of Life in Garden Gen 2:9
 - ▶ Tree of Life in New Jerusalem Rev 2:22
 - ▶ Tree upon which Christ was crucified - cured bitter problem of sin!

APPLY: What do you need to confess so your root of bitterness disappears?

Have you 'quit God' in serving Him because you are not satisfied with His care and provision?

Walking in Contentment

25-27

- People already saved by God, now called to new obedience of sanctification
- Salvation is by grace, not obedience (Exodus); Sanctification is being called by God to live for His glory — obedience is our joyful response to Him!
- Once saved from sin by God, the way to experience the fullness of God's blessing is to trust God and obey His Word even when circumstances are tough v25-26
- It is not all bad: v27 — God took them to Elim — a sweet wonderful oasis

APPLY: What do your works reveal about your relationship with God? Is it one of joyful trust and obedience or something else? Mt 6:27-33

- Our Hope: Look to Jesus — the One who obeyed on our behalf.
Jesus kept the whole law - Active Obedience of Christ - Mt 4:2-4
- Look to Jesus: Hebrews 12:1-2... hope of Hebrews 12!

Think & Discuss:

- What similarities can you think of between Exodus and our situation in the New Covenant?
- Discuss and think about the difference between our salvation and our sanctification, especially as salvation is completely by God's grace and in sanctification God's grace enables us to live for Him.
- How do you respond to verses like Acts 14:22 - *"through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God"*? How does the experience at Marah and Elim relate to our lives?
- Why do we so often respond to difficulty and trials by accusing God rather than seeing it as an opportunity to depend upon Him in prayer and faith?
- Have you been guilty of 'quitting' or 'being bitter' when challenged in life? Have you seen others respond like the Israelites rather than Moses?
- Discuss what you think the secret is to respond to trials and challenges like Moses rather than the Israelites?