



Exodus

From Slavery to Freedom

Lesson #7

Jim Hoffman

The Wilderness

- Ex 15:22 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. 23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) 24 So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" 25 Then Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the Lord made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them. 26 He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you." 27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water. NIV

The Wilderness

- Israel has now left Egypt and Pharaoh behind – they are now in a new land with God as their king instead of Pharaoh.
- When we come to know Jesus and are ‘born again’ we too find ourselves in a new land with a new God.
- Israel decided to cross over into the new land and we decided to cross over to the new life.

The Wilderness

- The new land would offer them new opportunities and new challenges.
- They would be blessed and find success when they stayed close to and obeyed God.
- Today, the formula for success has not changed – the believer who obeys God and stays close to Him will be blessed and find success.

The Wilderness

- When Israel got to Marah and the water was not fit to drink – they did what we all do very well – they complained.
- They were expecting to have everything go smoothly for these two million refugees from Egypt out in the wilderness.
- No one said freedom would be easy – but it was far better than slavery.

The Wilderness

- Do you see the parallel to us? Some come to Christ and expect smooth sailing, but that is rarely the case.
- However, here is a certainty for all who follow Christ – you will have a better opportunity for joy in this life and hold a guarantee for the next.
- Israel may have been fed in Egypt, but they were not free to worship or free to live.

The Wilderness

- **Ex 16:1**The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. **2** In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. **3** The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." **4** Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. **5** On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days." **6** So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, **7** and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" NIV

The Wilderness

- The new master, Jehovah, provides fresh bread everyday –the old master made them work without pay.
- John 6:48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." NIV

The Wilderness

- We are invited to come and eat of the Bread of Life and so be nourished as we go about our journey through the new life.
- Israel was provided manna from Heaven and without it they could not have made any progress on their new journey.
- Without Jesus we can do nothing – we can make no progress without the sustenance Jesus provides.

The Tabernacle

- God will give Israel his law and a proscriptio for worship – tedious details about how to approach the Living God.
- Heb 9:7 But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. 8 The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing. NIV

The Tabernacle

- The new is the old concealed while the old is in the new revealed – the OT sacrificial system served to paint a picture for us of redemption.
- The innocent offered for the guilty – the necessity of obedience and how Christ fulfilled the law through his obedience.
- If the priests were careful while in the tabernacle, how much more should we take care as the tabernacle of God?

Freedom to Slavery

- When the book opened Israel was enslaved and in need to a savior.
- When the book ends they are free, but still growing into the responsibilities that come with freedom.
- Need I say it? Our experience is not that much different. We are free in Christ and still struggle with the responsibility to live for Him.

Questions / Comments