

Moses | Part 4 | Pastor Steve Wells | 02.01.2020
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Memory Verse: Jeremiah 32:27 (ESV)

“Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?”

After God delivered His people from Egypt, they had to travel and follow where God was leading them. The people of Israel were met with many hardships after God had Moses part the Red Sea. Even though they had just witnessed the greatest miracle at that time, the people were afraid and doubtful. Although God may rescue us from a situation, it does not mean life will be perfect. God provided a way for the people of Israel to leave their old life in slavery; but the Israelites would face many hardships and doubt along the way.

- Can you recall a time you were following God’s direction, but you continued having hardships you did not expect?
- When you first left your old (possibly easy--due to comfort--but hard) --life to follow God did you expect things to be easy or difficult? Was the change easy or hard?

Read Exodus 15:22-27, Exodus 16, & Exodus 17 & Go Deeper into some of the hardships and complaints the Israelites had after crossing the Red Sea.

Exodus 15:22-27 (NLT) Bitter Water

God provided the Israelites with water but they complained that it was bitter. They refused to drink the water and decided God did not provide for them because He did not provide HOW they wanted.

- Looking back, can you recall a time where you thought God was not providing for you when He was, but it was not the way you wanted/expected?
- Is there something you now realize God is providing for you, that you didn’t see before?

Exodus 15:27(NLT) “After leaving Marah, the Israelites traveled on to the oasis of Elim, where they found twelve springs and seventy palm trees. They camped there beside the water.”

God was providing for the Israelites at Marah, the bitter water was only temporary. Sometimes, we may need to endure a bitter or bad situation to get to where God is leading us. Other times, we may encounter bitter or bad situations to help us appreciate what God will provide for us later.

- Have you had to endure “Bitter Water” to get to or appreciate the abundance of sweet water God had planned for you?

Exodus 16 (NLT)- Manna & Quail

When the Israelites left Egypt, they left with bread (without yeast) and livestock. **Exodus 16: 38-39** “A rabble of non-Israelites went with them, along with great flocks and herds of livestock. 39 For bread they baked flat cakes from the dough without yeast they had brought from Egypt. It was made without yeast because the people were driven out of Egypt in such a hurry that they had no time to prepare the bread or other food.” God provided food for His people on their journey, but after a month they were unhappy with what God had given them.

Exodus 16:1(NLT) “Then the whole community of Israel set out from Elim and journeyed into the wilderness of Sin, between Elim and Mount Sinai. They arrived there on the fifteenth day of the second month, one month after leaving the land of Egypt.”

Exodus 16:3 (NLT) “If only the Lord had killed us back in Egypt,” they moaned. “There we sat around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death.”

They complained to Moses and Aaron and even said they would have rather been killed, because although their old life was hard-it was convenient.

- Have you ever wished you could go back to the way you used to live because it was easier?
 - Did you feel like God was with you?
- How do you think the Israelites were feeling at this time?
 - Do you think they were “starving”?

God sent the Israelites Quail and Manna but gave them instructions on how and when to gather and eat the food. He provided the exact amount they needed for each family.

- Were the Israelites grateful that God provided for them once more? Why or Why not? (How do you know?)

Exodus 17(NLT)- Water from the Rock

Even after seeing all the signs and miracles from God, the people of Israel still do not trust God to be their provider. Instead of crying out to God and thanking Him for all He has done and having faith that He will provide for them--they yell at Moses and DEMAND water.

- How do you think Moses was feeling at this time?
- How do you think God felt?
- Do you think you would have felt the same way the Israelites felt?
- Why do you think they didn't have faith and believe God would provide?
- Why didn't they ask God instead of complaining and doubting?
- When you are faced with a want or need--do you trust God will provide?
 - Do you ask Him and seek Him?
 - If you don't ask God, who do you ask? What do you do?
 - Have you ever demanded God give you what you want? Why or why not?

Exodus 17:5-6 (NLT) says “**5** The Lord said to Moses, “Walk out in front of the people. Take your staff, the one you used when you struck the water of the Nile, and call some of the elders of Israel to join you. **6** I will stand before you on the rock at Mount Sinai. Strike the rock, and water will come gushing out. Then the people will be able to drink.” So Moses struck the rock as he was told, and water gushed out as the elders looked on.”

The people were ready to stone Moses. Moses asked God for guidance and help. God provided for him and the people.

- Why do you think God told Moses to use the staff?
- Why did God have Moses do this in the presence of the elders?

The people of Israel saw God do amazing things, yet they still did not put their trust in God. God continued to provide for them over and over--without thanks. Even though the people were having hardships and struggles they were always taken care of.

- How has God taken care of you?
- Are you always grateful to God--do you thank Him for all He has done for you? Do you notice what He does for you right away, or does it take time?
- Is there something God has provided for you that you need to thank Him for?
- What can you do to remember God is with you and He is your provider?