



The Lord is My Strength

The Lord Provides

Exodus 16 & 17

- Last week we looked at the song of Moses
- There is no reference in that song to anything that Moses had done. There is no reference to any of the bravery or any of the brilliance or any of the logic of Moses
- All of the glory goes to God, so one of the most impressive things about Moses, one of the most impressive points in our study of the life of Moses, was that Moses was a mature believer
- What was that mark of maturity? The ultimate test of maturity, I think, is pointed out in the Scripture in various ways and here is one illustration of it:
 - The ultimate test of maturity is whether or not a man can give all of the glory to God
- Today we look at the next two chapters and talk about what happens after they cross the Red Sea
- Which would have more meaning in your life?
- God performing some big, miraculous, impressive, life-saving event?
- Or, God just doing more a daily support type of maintenance work?
- How about both?
- That's what we see in the life of Moses
- That's what we see in our lives also
- Although you tend to focus on the "miraculous" big things, there are lots of little things that are also "miraculous"
- Take LIFE for example

- Although it's pretty rudimentary in a Pediatrics Unit, it is still a miraculous thing
- The fact that we have jobs, and food and clothing are all signs of God's daily support to us
- We have a hard time seeing those kinds of things, and tend to only notice the big things
- The same was true then...
- Exodus 16:1 KJV

1) And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which *is* between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.

- Although it comes from the same Egyptian root word that the word Sinai comes from, I've always found it interesting that this is called the Wilderness of Sin
- How many of your trials come from the Wilderness of Sin?
- How long have you been wandering around out in the Wilderness of Sin?
- Are you being led by the power of God through the Wilderness of Sin?
- Look at their first sin...

• Exodus 16:2 KJV

2) And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:

- It's been six weeks since they packed up and left
- 40 Days! One of which was spent miraculously crossing the Red Sea and watching the salvation of the Lord as the Egyptians were consumed behind them
- Another of which was spent singing about that...
- And yet, here they are murmuring...

• Exodus 16:3 KJV

3) And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, *and* when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

- So, not only has God provided a big, miraculous, life-saving deliverance, but now He is going to show that he cares about them down to the smallest detail
- Exodus 16:4 KJV
 - 4) Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.
- Ah... But, there seems to be a catch involved...
- *“and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.”*
- What’s this saying?
- God provides DAILY for us
- But, He also makes certain rules that we have to follow...
- And in the provisions that God gives us, He is also testing us to see whether or not we will walk in His ways
- Interesting...
- So, your paycheck is not only a BLESSING from the Lord, but it’s also a TEST
- Sure, God provides for you because He loves you, and He wants to bless you..
- But, because He loves you He is also testing you to see if you are becoming the kind of person that He wants you to be
- God provide daily food for you...
- He wants to see if you are thankful for it
- He wants to see if you are willing to share it with others who are less fortunate
- He wants to see if you are going to give some back to Him
- He wants to see if you are going to take the credit for it’s appearance yourself
- He wants to prove you, to see whether you will walk in His law, or not...
- Exodus 16:12 KJV
 - 12) I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD your God.

- We bow our heads in prayer every morning and evening and acknowledge that the meat and bread that we are about to eat are a gift from God
- But, do we “know that I am the Lord your God?”
- Do we see our blessings as proof that God does exist, that He cares for us, and that He is our Lord?
- Exodus 16:15-17 KJV
 - 15) And when the children of Israel saw *it*, they said one to another, *It is manna*: for they wist not what it *was*. And Moses said unto them, *This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.*
 - 16) *This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, according to the number of your persons; take ye every man for them which are in his tents.*
 - 17) And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less.
- Did you notice HOW God provides for us?
- Not everyone gets the same amount
- When we are children this is always a main issue of concern
- Your brother got more mashed potatoes than you did!
- The fact that you don't even really LIKE mashed potatoes doesn't really matter to you
- It's just not fair!
- Of course, as adults we no longer think like that, right?
- We would never compare what we have to what someone else has, right?
- Of course we do...
- It's always a challenge to see how much God has blessed someone else, and not think that you should have received more
- God gives you what you are SUPPOSED to have
- Do you really think that God has made a mistake?
- That the other person really shouldn't have received as much as he did?
- That you should have gotten more?
- Consider the end of the matter...

- Exodus 16:18 KJV

18) And when they did mete *it* with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating.

- He that God gives little to has no lack
- He that had been given much has nothing left over
- That's how God works!
- Moses wanted the people to remember that the Lord provides for them...

- Exodus 16:32-34

32) And Moses said, This *is* the thing which the LORD commandeth, Fill an omer of it to be kept for your generations; that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you forth from the land of Egypt.

33) And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations.

34) As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept.

- So the Lord provided food for the people every single day
- What could possibly happen next?

- Exodus 17:1

1) And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and *there was* no water for the people to drink.

- So, how do you respond when God has consistently provided for you and then something else comes up in your life?
- Do you look around you and realize that you are being well taken care of, and that you shouldn't worry or stress about the new issue, because God has shown Himself faithful in every other area of your life?
- Do you see God's blessings to you as somehow commonplace or expected?
- What once was miracles is now simply common
- That's how the Israelites felt

- Exodus 17:2-3 KJV

- 2) Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?
- 3) And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore *is* this *that* thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

- Things were really bad...

- Exodus 17:4 KJV

- 4) And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

- God sends Moses out once more with nothing but his staff...

- Exodus 17:5-6

- 5) And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.
- 6) Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

- How do you picture this scene?

- I always thought about it like the water source you see on the way up to Idyllwild

- But, do the math?

- How much water does it take to support human life?

- The average American consumes 100 Gallons a day

- But, that is more than any other human, and I'm sure we are wasting a ton by sprinkling our lawns, and we do grow more crops than any other country, and farming takes tons of water

- The average European consumes 50 Gallons a day

- But, even that is more than you actually NEED to survive

- Probably closer to reality is what the average person in a developing country consumes, and that is only 2.5 Gallons a day

- How many people left Egypt?

- 2.5 Gallons x 2.5 Million People = Over 6,000,000 Gallons
- They would only be cueing up to gather water during the daylight hours, and you can only grab about 1/10 of the water that comes out as it flows by...
- So, we are talking something like over 10,000 Gallons a SECOND pouring out of this rock
- This is a major river flowing out of a major cliff
- THAT is how God delivers!
- Not some little pool by the side of road where you sit there for several minutes trying to fill a gallon jug
- We're talking the spillway on the Hoover Dam!
- But, God doesn't just provide for your food, he also looks out for your safety
- Exodus 17:8-13 KJV
 - 8) Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.
 - 9) And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.
 - 10) So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.
 - 11) And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.
 - 12) But Moses' hands *were* heavy; and they took a stone, and put *it* under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.
 - 13) And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.
- Think about Moses sitting up there on the hill
- Holding up his arms
- How did he feel when they got tired and fell?
- What happened? People died!
- During all of that Moses would have done so with confidence that it was the Lord who provides!