



WALKING BY FAITH

Desert Lessons: How God Uses the Wilderness

EXODUS 16

I. God uses the wilderness to _____ the slavery hidden in our hearts. (vv. 2-3)

And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." vv. 2-3

A. Outwardly they were free, but inwardly they were in chains.

B. Our words reveal what our hearts conceal.

II. God uses the wilderness to _____ us in daily trust. (vv. 4-21)

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not." v. 4

A. God is not just feeding their bellies—He's forming their faith.

B. Dependence on God isn't something that can be stockpiled. (Matt 6:11)

III. God uses the wilderness to _____ the focus of our heart. (vv. 22-30)

"See! The Lord has given you the Sabbath ..." So the people rested on the seventh day. vv. 29a-30

A. Slaves don't get a day off—sons do.

B. Rest: God calls His people to stop, to trust and to delight.

REMEMBERING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS (vv. 31-36)

"Take a jar, and put an omer of manna in it, and place it before the Lord to be kept throughout your generations." v. 33

Keep "_____" in your life: journal entries, answered prayers, moments of grace.

Find _____ that help you remember God's provision in dry seasons.

Let the _____ of provision strengthen your dependence on God going forward.

HOME GROUP STUDY & DEVOTIONAL

As you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read Exodus 16. What was unusual about the collection of the manna? What lessons do you think God intended Israel to learn from this?

2. Where might God be testing you for obedience as He tested the Israelites with the instructions about the manna?

3. When you're in the wilderness, do you allow God to reveal what's in your heart, or do you look for relief? How has this sermon encouraged you to submit to the plans the Lord has for you in the wilderness?

4. God provided rest one day a week without letting His people go hungry (vv. 5, 22-30). What was this meant to teach Israel about labor and leisure? Why is balance in this area so important in following God?

5. In the first point of the sermon, the pastor discussed the "slavery" hidden within our hearts. What does he mean by this? How does Jeremiah 17:5-10 give you insight into this concept?

6. What lessons did God teach you about trusting Him during previous sojourns in the wilderness? How do you remind yourself of those lessons now?

7. How does Paul apply Exodus 16:28 to Christians in 2 Corinthians 8:7-15?

8. What ways of remembering God's faithfulness do you practice in your home? Have group members share their own practices, then brainstorm ways to keep these memories in the forefront of your mind for help on difficult days.

There's a personal warning here for God's people today: We can't hoard His Word and try to live on yesterday's spiritual nourishment. It's good to hear the Bible preached and taught on the Lord's Day, but we need fresh manna each day if we want to be healthy Christians. There's no substitute for a daily time alone with God, gathering fresh nourishment from His Word.

WARREN WIERSBE

What an interesting announcement. "I will meet your need for hunger, but the meeting of that need will bring another test." Have you found that to be true? I have. We find ourselves in the midst of some predicament that we cannot escape. So God says, "I'll provide the way out; I'll show you the way." We accept His answer, His new direction, which introduces us to a whole new set of tests and trials of a different kind. So while we are relieved of one wilderness problem, we gain a new one.

CHARLES SWINDOLL

The manna was Israel's only food during forty years in the wilderness. Christ is the only food of our souls during our journey towards our promised rest; nothing else can nourish them—nothing else can sustain spiritual life, or enable us to put forth spiritual strength.

GEORGE WAGNER

Jesus Christ compared Himself to the manna (John 6:32-33, 35, 47-51, 53-58), so it is a type (a divinely intended foreview) of Christ. Our Lord gave Himself unreservedly, but each Christian has no more of Him experientially than he or she appropriates by faith. And when appropriated properly, He proves totally satisfying.

TOM CONSTABLE

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit ccbcfamily.org/events.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

PARTNER IN PRAYER Join us in praying for our high school ministry team as they head to El Salvador — for boldness, unity, and opportunities to share the hope of Jesus. As we pray for them, we also remember the many others around the world who are stepping into unfamiliar places, carrying the light of the gospel. May God use their obedience to bring transformation, both in the people they serve and in their own hearts.

CALLED TO OUR CITIES God has placed us in our cities on purpose — not just to live here, but to be on mission here. He calls us to notice the brokenness around us and step into it with the hope, compassion, and truth of Jesus. Whether it's serving a neighbor in need, supporting a local ministry, or showing kindness to those struggling with food insecurity, there are numerous ways to reflect His love right where we are. Join Local Outreach and our ministry partners as we follow His call to be present, intentional, and full of grace. Learn more at ccbcfamily.org/local.

HEALING, HOPE + HELP THIS FALL We're offering a variety of Soul Care classes designed to help you experience God's healing and restoration in everyday life in the coming months. Whether you're navigating grief, seeking freedom from addictions, or learning how to lovingly counsel others, these classes provide practical tools and biblical encouragement for your journey. Learn more at ccbcfamily.org/soulcare.

COFFEE WITH A MISSION The Perk coffee shop is open on Sundays and beyond — a warm, inviting place for you and your neighbors to connect and grow community. But it's also a powerful mission opportunity right here in Fort Worth. Every cup you buy sends hope around the world, as proceeds support global missions. Stop by, grab a coffee, and be part of something bigger — let's REACH the world together!

BE, MAKE + REACH WITH LIVE PRODUCTION Got an eye for the camera or a passion for live production? Use your skills to help create meaningful worship experiences and support the church beyond the scenes. We're looking for volunteers to join our Production Team —and we'd love to connect with you! Start the conversation by visiting ccbcfamily.org/production.



IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE The process is quick and easy—scan the QR Code to start.