

Series: life of Moses

THE WILDERNESS OF SIN

EXODUS 16

Text:

Introduction:

Do you know what the most despised gift that is given during the Christmas season is?

Is it a new tie? No!

Is it a new pair of bedroom slippers? Is it a new hand-knitted sweater? No!

What it is; is fruitcake!

Lots of people give those nasty things to lots of other people who hate them.

They hide them in their closets, use them to scotch their cars tires, use them as doorstops, save them up and use them to brick their houses, throw them at stray dogs, or best of all, re-wrap them and give them to some other poor, unsuspecting person, so their Christmas can be ruined too.

The truth is when someone give you a fruitcake you take it and most people even say thank you.

Have you ever been around someone who received a gift from someone else and rudely rejected it out of hand?

I have seen that happen and it is a hurtful thing to watch. It breaks the giver's heart! It is amazing the people can be so cruel, but they can!

Note some truths from this passage and let's ask ourselves are we satisfied with God's gift.

1. A GRAVE DILEMMA (VS. 2-3)

Exodus 16:2-3

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

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.

As the children of Israel journeyed toward Canaan, they had a great need.

They need food.

Mankind has three basic physical needs. He needs food, water and shelter.

These people had shelter, but they lacked water and food.

This was no small problem, for they were pilgrims, hence they could not raise crops. Their livestock could never have reproduced at a rate sufficient to sustain them. They were journeying in a desert environment, so water would have been a constant problem for them. They were helpless and the future, at least to them, appeared hopeless!

They simply could not help themselves!

They had to depend upon God to remain alive.

They had a legitimate need, but they tried to meet it in an illegitimate fashion. Instead of trusting God, they murmured and complained against Moses and Aaron.

- Remember who these people were.
- They had been slaves but now they are free
- They had been trapped but now they are triumphed
- They had been thirsty, but now they had their thirst quenched

Note what their murmuring did to them.

- Made them say things they should have not said.

Exodus 16:3

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.*

- Made them exaggerate the facts

Exodus 16:3

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.*

- Made them doubt their leader

Exodus 16:3

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.*

However their murmuring was really against God.

Exodus 16:8

⁸ And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD.

Note not only “A Grave Dilemma” but also:

2. A GRACIOUS DELIVERANCE (VS. 4-7)

Exodus 16:4-7

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. ⁵ And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily. ⁶ And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of Egypt: ⁷ And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what are we, that ye murmur against us?

A. They Experienced God's Mercy

God said that He would rain bread from Heaven, not fire and brimstone that they deserved.

What a picture of grace and mercy!

These people deserved judgment and wrath, yet God reached out to them in love, grace and compassion. He extended divine grace to them, when they deserved something far different!

B. They Experienced God's Manna

God sent them bread or manna.

This was also a picture of the Saviour.

John 6:35

³⁵ *And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*

Note:

- It Was Small

Exodus 16:14

¹⁴ *And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.*

Certainly this speaks of Christ humility

- It Was Round

Exodus 16:14

¹⁴ *And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.*

This speaks of Christ's eternal nature.

John 1:1

¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

- It Was White

Exodus 16:31

³¹ *And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.*

This reminds us of the sinless, holy nature of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:22

²² *Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:*

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

- It Came At Night

Exodus 16:13-14

¹³ *And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host. ¹⁴ And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.*

Jesus came to a world lost in spiritual darkness and gave them light and life.

- It Was Misunderstood By Those who Found It

Exodus 16:15

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.

Jesus was misunderstood by the very people He came to save.

John 1:11

¹¹ *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

John 10:20

²⁰ *And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?*

- It Was Sufficient For Every Man's Need

Exodus 16:17-18

¹⁷ *And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less.* 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.*

This reminds us that Jesus is the all-sufficient Savior. He meets the need of man's soul. Some go deep in the Christian life, others get in but chose to play around the edges, but wherever you find yourself, as long as it is in Jesus, you will find that He is sufficient to save your soul.

- It Was Sweet to the Taste

Exodus 16:31

³¹ And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

Those who partook of the Manna found it sweet and satisfying. By the same token, all those who receive Jesus as their Savior find Him to be sweet to the soul and satisfying to the life.

There is more that could be said about The Manna, but that is enough to let us see that it is an excellent type of the Lord Jesus.

Note not only “A Grave Dilemma” and a “Gracious Deliverance” but note lastly:

3. A Great Disappointment (Num. 11:4-9)

Numbers 11:4-9

⁴ And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? ⁵ We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: ⁶ But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before

our eyes. ⁷ And the manna was as coriander seed, and the colour thereof as the colour of bdellium. ⁸ And the people went about, and gathered it, and ground it in mills, or beat it in a mortar, and baked it in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil. ⁹ And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it.

Note that they were not satisfied with what God had given them and again began to complain.

Note:

A. Their Judgment of the Gift (vs. 4-9)

By this time the people have been eating Manna for nearly two years. Every day, except the Sabbath, the Manna was there on the dew when they awoke. The Manna had fed them, sustained them and had met their need for food.

Someone has said that it would have taken approximately 240 box car loads of Manna per day to feed two million people! Yet, God sent it every day, faithfully, sufficiently and graciously.

They were not content but rather complained.

Note not only their judgment of the gift but also:

B. Their Judgment By the Giver

God was not pleased by what they did! He answered their request for meat, v. 18-20, and He judged them severely for their lack of gratitude for His gracious provisions, v. 31-35.

Numbers 11:18-20

¹⁸ And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat. ¹⁹ Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days; ²⁰ But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the LORD which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?

Numbers 11:31-35

³¹ And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth. ³² And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round

about the camp. ³³ And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague. ³⁴ And he called the name of that place Kibrothhattaavah: because there they buried the people that lusted. ³⁵ And the people journeyed from Kibrothhattaavah unto Hazeroth; and abode at Hazeroth.

Their rejection brought a high price. Many of the people perished because they rejected Him and His precious gift!

Close:

Not everyone in Israel was guilty of this sad show of the flesh. There were some people in the camp who quietly gathered the Manna, thanked God for His provisions and lived. Thank God, there are still some even in this godless day who have partaken of the Bread of Heaven and are saved and satisfied in Jesus!

What about you?