

God is More than Enough

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In the Book of Exodus, after the Israelites' delivery from slavery in Egypt, they wandered through the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land, and God prepared them for their future through various tests which also revealed His character. We have, so far, learned two key lessons: by the waters of Marah, God taught them that He was their healer; when they had nothing to eat, God provided them with manna and quail, demonstrating that He would provide for their needs! In many respects, the Christian life can be compared to the wilderness journey, as we make our pilgrimage to heaven. God uses this opportunity to shape and mold us through various trials and tests. We also learn to depend on Him alone, and as His character is revealed to us, we are, gradually, being conformed to the image of Christ!

In this sermon, we learn about *the Israelites testing God*, which signifies a lack of trust in Him! Unexpected twists and turns in life bring uncertainty, and the route may become unpredictable/dangerous. We can choose to *trust* God OR test Him. Testing implies that we *want our will*; however, in **trusting God**, we acknowledge that He is sufficient for **all** our needs and cling to Him, realizing that no matter the circumstances, God has promised He is **always** with us.

In Exodus 17:1-7, the Israelites were dissatisfied with Moses' leadership and quarrelled (contended) with him when they found no water at Rephidim, questioning him as to whether God was among them; they were actually testing and accusing God of deserting them! But God provided them with water from a rock! In one of his books, C.S. Lewis says: "The ancient man approached God as the accused person approaches his judge" (where God is judge and we humans are on trial). But Lewis continues by saying: "For the *modern* man, the roles are quite reversed; he is the judge, God is in the dock."

Moses responded by telling them that God was the **leader of their lives**. After being rescued from slavery, the Israelites expected life to be *perfect*; they were, therefore, unprepared for the harsh conditions in the wilderness, and didn't realize that God was shaping and molding their faith. As soon as they faced any discomfort, they forgot all the miracles God had performed for them and, ungratefully, made their trust in God contingent upon the demonstration of His power. We can learn from Israel's failure by making Jesus our role model and following His examples. In the Gospels Jesus, who faced many temptations, teaches us that the *spiritual needs of a person supersede physical needs*, and that we should NOT put God to the test!

'Will we **trust God**, or test Him?' Jesus teaches us that God's presence is more important than God's provision and we should love Him for **who He is** so that His presence within us fills the longings of our hearts. God is compassionate, in complete control, and has the best plan; in His Perfect Time, He meets all our needs. Faith in Him enables us to say – I WILL worship you, Lord, and give YOU my praise and thanks!'

NOTHING can separate us from the love of God, and when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, we are filled with His Holy Spirit. He took the sins of the world upon Himself so that we might have eternal life with Him in heaven. Let us confess that God is sufficient for ALL our needs, and be grateful!



EXODUS

sermon study guide

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you ran out of something you needed (e.g., on a hike or journey)? What did you run out of and how did you react?
2. Who or what gets the brunt of your frustration? Is this fair? What would be a better way to respond?

UP – PURSUE GOD

3. Read *Exodus 17:1-7*.
What did complaining reveal about the Israelites' faith in God's provision? Why do you think God waited until the people complained before meeting their needs?
4. Refer to *1 Corinthians 10:1-13*.
Why did God tell Moses to strike the rock to produce water? What is the significance of this action? What lessons does God want us to learn from this story today?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Read John 7:37-39a. Jesus promises that those who come to Him and drink will have rivers of living water flowing from within them. How have you experienced this promise in your own life?
6. How can we demonstrate patience and compassion to others, even when they are grumbling or complaining about their situation? How can we point them towards God's grace and provision?

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

Pastor Ashwin said, "Yes, even though we are walking through a wilderness on the outside, we have living waters flowing from the inside refreshing us."

In what ways do you sometimes question God's motives or accuse Him of abandoning you? How can you cultivate a deeper sense of trust in His love and care for you?

THE WORD (NIV)

Exodus 17:1-7

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?"

³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

⁵ The Lord answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ² They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³ They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

John 7:37-39a

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

This week's writers: | Asha Philips, Jemimah Ong, Elsa Henderson, Jared Harrison and Jorel Quemuel

