

## Looking To The Lord To Meet Our Needs

### Introduction

A. Text – Ex.15:22-27

### B. Israel struggled trusting God to meet their needs

1. Constantly grumbling & complaining
2. Repeatedly ignored His word – did their own thing
3. Had to wander in wilderness 40 years – trying teach them

### C. We too struggle trusting the Lord to meet our needs

1. Mt.6 – not to worry – put Lord 1<sup>st</sup> all needs met
2. Still we worry – fret – hoard trying to make sure have enough

### D. Question – how do you think it makes God feel when you grumble & complain?

1. How make you feel when those care about complain & grumble?
  - a. Does it hurt? Cause you pain?
  - b. Especially when it threatens lives, reputations & friendships
2. Realize grumbling & complaining shows we distrust God
  - a. Unsure that He is in control – work things out
  - b. Question His goodness & care for us

E. Pray

## I. Examine The Text

### A. Israel faces a crisis

1. 1<sup>st</sup> obstacle after crossing Red Sea –Desert of Shur
  - a. Name means wall (referring to a fortress wall)
  - b. Traveled 3 days & found no water
  - c. Are 2 or 3 million people
  - d. Water supplies were running low – matter of life & death
2. Came to place water supposed to be = polluted
  - a. Bitter – unfit to drink
  - b. So bitter people felt water not safe (fearful to drink)

### B. Reactions

#### 1. The people

- a. Complain, grumble, murmur
- b. Seems to be their consistent response
- c. Forgotten their tremendous experience 3 days before
- d. Instead of trusting God & praying – rather complain
- e. Why?
  - 1) Not expect to have to struggle
  - 2) Not really believe God would care for them
- f. Imagine picture - if 2 or 3 million people all praying

#### 2. Moses answer – cry out to the Lord

- a. God answered – provided a tree
- b. Why?
  - 1) Because His faithful servant cried out
  - 2) God responded to intercession
  - 3) James 4:1-3 – have not because ask not

## **II. Lessons We Can Learn**

### **A. God allows His people to be tested**

#### **1. Reasons**

- a. To humble them – Deut.8:2,16
- b. To strengthen them – Ex.20:20
- c. To see if they will obey Him – Ex.16:4
- d. To see where their faith lies – Jn.6:5,6; 1 Pet.1:5-7
- e. So learn patience & perseverance – James 1:2-4; Rom.5:3-5

#### **2. Our attitude**

- a. Consider trials a joy – James 1:2
- b. See them as disciplines from the Lord – Heb.12
- c. Keep our focus on the spiritual – 2 Cor.4:16-18

### **B. God showed His people what He expected - obedience**

#### **1. Covenant** – a sacred promise

- a. Not chastise them with diseases inflicted on Egyptians
- b. Happened because they refused to obey God

#### **2. Principle** – Gal.6:7,8

- a. God promised care for all their needs
- b. Their responsibility – diligently listen & do what is right

#### **3. God is still looking for obedience**

- a. Mt.7:21-23
- b. Lk.6:46

### **C. God Richly provides for His people**

#### **1. Led them to Elim** – an oasis (fruitful well watered valley)

- a. 12 springs; 70 palm trees
- b. God poured out an abundant blessing on His people

#### **2. God wants to richly provide for us too**

- a. Mt.6:33 – if seek 1<sup>st</sup> His kingdom & righteousness
- b. 2 Cor.9:8-11 – made rich in every way
- c. Eph.3:20 – wants to work in you beyond imagination

### **D. We must learn to trust God to meet our needs**

#### **1. God put Israel in a place where unable meet own needs**

- a. Wanted to humble them – deal with pride
- b. Had to deal with independent spirit

#### **2. Our needs**

##### **a. Companionship**

- 1) Feel like only one – Never leave or forsake
- 2) No other Christians in family = I'm 1<sup>st</sup> one

##### **b. Need for appreciation**

- 1) Feel no one understands me – no encouragement
- 2) Come unto me – I will give you rest

##### **c. Purpose**

- 1) Why am I here – feeling useless
- 2) Eph.2:10 – created for good works
- 3) Phil.2:12,13 – God is working in us

## **Conclusion**

### **A. Israel never learned to fully trust God**

1. Constantly complaining
2. Always seemed to focus on what they did not have
3. Missed out on the blessings God had for them

### **B. Will we follow in their steps?**