

Series: Would the REAL GOD please stand up!

Part Seven: What is it?

Sunday April 2, 2017

TEXT: Exodus 15, 16

1. *I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!* (Ez. 18:32).
2. Did you see the contrast between the waters at Marah and the springs of Elim?
3. Do we grumble and complain about our hardships or do we cry out to God? And when we pray – do we wait – are we patient – do we demonstrate faith that God will answer our prayers in His time and in His way?
4. What would Israel learn in the desert?
5. *Manna = What is it?*
6. *The Lord replied (to Moses), “I have forgiven them (the Hebrews), as you have asked. Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times – not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it* (Numbers 14:20-23).

TAKEAWAYS

1. Write a song (Exodus 15)..
2. Eat your daily bread (Jn. 6:22-40).

TIME FOR REFLECTION

1. Invite Jesus to help you remember some of your “desert” experiences and how He helped you through them.
2. How do you best fill your mind and heart with Jesus: through the bible, worship music, caring for others, nature walks, time alone in prayer, fighting injustices, enjoying life through your senses, reading books that help you understand the bible even more, fasting, journaling, life group...? Spend time this week filling up with Jesus!

Study Notes

DISCUSSION

1. What stood out for you from Sunday’s teaching?
2. How many different ways do you think the Hebrews prepared and ate the manna? Keith Green wondered the same and suggested: manna porridge, manna-cotti (for those who like pasta), and maybe be-mannah-bread for dessert. It’s just hard to imagine eating anything for 40 years!

BIBLE

3. Read Exodus 16:4-5 and Deut. 8:2. Why do you think God “tests people? Hint: Is it for His sake (like God doesn’t know what’s in a person’s heart or mind or what they would do) or is it for their sake? Could God do something else and still get the same results?
4. Read Mt. 6:25-34. How does this passage encourage daily dependence upon God? How do the metaphors of *the birds of the air* and *the lilies of the field* compare to the provision of manna, its personal accessibility, and its communal nourishment as we read in Ex. 16?
5. Read John 15:7. How does this verse relate to the important principle of eating our daily bread to stay spiritually healthy?

APPLICATION

6. Again – the Israelites romanticized the past while complaining about the present (Ex. 15:24; 16:2-3). Do you ever do this? Is this human nature? Are there any ways we can do this less and less?
7. Some would suggest that the Israelites had what they needed to the person because they shared amongst themselves – and that the NT church sees in this the inspiration to share its wealth with each other (2 Cor. 8:13-15). How do you share from your wealth?