



Christian Faith Fellowship

- We are not a perfect church**
- We are not a perfect people**
- We are here because we know we need God's help and He has provided this help through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

Accountability Questions

- **Did you spend 5 minutes a day at least 5 days last week reading the Bible?**
- **Did you share a God story with a non-believer this week?**
- **Did you spend time alone with God this week (With no personal agenda)?**
- **Do you know what the Holy Spirit is saying to you?**
- **Are you giving as God has asked?**

- A couple weeks ago we talked about the Exodus and the people being led by God into what appeared to be a trap. This is where God delivered them by parting the Red Sea. A miraculous deliverance by God in a crucial moment of their lives!
- This was after proving Himself in the land of Egypt with the 10 plagues etc.
- Now they are celebrating with a time of Worship and Praise in Exodus 15 the song they sang is recorded
- Immediately following this incredible deliverance – worship and praise to God we find this...

Exodus 15 22 Then Moses led the people of Israel away from the Red Sea, and they moved out into the desert of Shur. They traveled in this desert for three days without finding any water. 23 When they came to the oasis of Marah, the water was too bitter to drink. So they called the place Marah (which means “bitter”). 24 Then the people complained and turned against Moses. “What are we going to drink?” they demanded. 25 So Moses cried out to the Lord for help, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. Moses threw it into the water, and this made the water good to drink.

Exodus 16 1 Then the whole community of Israel set out from Elim and journeyed into the wilderness of Sin, between Elim and Mount Sinai. They arrived there on the fifteenth day of the second month, **one month** after leaving the land of Egypt. 2 There, too, the whole community of Israel complained about Moses and Aaron. 3 “If only the Lord had killed us back in Egypt,” they moaned. “There we sat around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death.”

Exodus 17 1 At the Lord's command, the whole community of Israel left the wilderness of Sin and moved from place to place. Eventually they camped at Rephidim, but there was no water there for the people to drink. 2 So once more the people complained against Moses. "Give us water to drink!" they demanded. "Quiet!" Moses replied. "Why are you complaining against me? And why are you testing the Lord?" 3 But tormented by thirst, they continued to argue with Moses. "Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Are you trying to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?"

- Here we are 1 month in and there are 3 separate incidents where the people run into a difficulty
- We find a pattern of their reaction to moments of difficulties or crisis:
 1. Complain about the situation,
 2. Regret ever starting this new life,
 3. Questioning their leader,
 4. Blaming God for bringing them here in the first place!
- What we find throughout their journey is this pattern was their reaction with each challenge!

- What's your normal reaction when you face a crisis?
- Remember each of these situations we are looking at in the Exodus account – God was leading and knew right where they were!
- Is God leading your life? Do you think God knows where you are? Do you think He has a plan?
- Why is it so easy to forget what God has done in the past while we stare down the next challenge?
- So - they never change!! As a result they don't get to live in the Promised Land! 40 years later Joshua leads the people...

Joshua 4 1 When all the people had crossed the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, 2 “Now choose twelve men, one from each tribe. 3 Tell them, ‘Take twelve stones from the very place where the priests are standing in the middle of the Jordan. Carry them out and pile them up at the place where you will camp tonight.’” 4 So Joshua called together the twelve men he had chosen—one from each of the tribes of Israel. 5 He told them, “Go into the middle of the Jordan, in front of the Ark of the Lord your God. Each of you must pick up one stone and carry it out on your

shoulder—twelve stones in all, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. 6 We will use these stones to build a memorial. In the future your children will ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ 7 Then you can tell them, ‘They remind us that the Jordan River stopped flowing when the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant went across.’ These stones will stand as a memorial among the people of Israel forever.”

- Maybe we need to begin establishing memorials in order to remember what God has done!

- We use memorials in our lives now: wedding rings, Shirts/hats (Blessings), vacation souvenirs, etc.
- The purpose of these items is to remind us of an event in our lives that we don't want to forget!
- This is why we have verses of Promise from the Bible that apply to our lives as well!
- Maybe we need memorials to remind us “Hey, God's got this!”
- Changing our behavior or “normal reaction” to something is difficult! This is why we need reminders/memorials to help us change!!

- In my phone I have daily reminders: (Old days tie a string to the finger!)
 - Pray for my leaders (listen to God)
 - Pray for my family (wife, kids, grandkids) (listen)
 - Pray for the Church (listen)
 - Read my Bible (listen)
 - Journal God's work (see what He has done!)
- These repeat daily in order to make sure I remind myself of what is necessary and needed in my life!
- This doesn't allow me to make excuses and/or lose sight of where I am and Where God is!

- Now, this plan God had with Joshua wasn't something new!
- God actually did this with the generation that continued to forget and complain
- The final Plague in Egypt – the Passover – was to be a lasting memorial that the people would celebrate Every Year to remember what God had done!

Exodus 12 14 “This is a day to remember. Each year, from generation to generation, you must celebrate it as a special festival to the Lord. This is a law for all time.

- Along with the Passover there was the feast of unleavened bread & God said this:

Exodus 13 8 “On the seventh day you must explain to your children, ‘I am celebrating what the Lord did for me when I left Egypt.’ 9 This annual festival will be a visible sign to you, like a mark branded on your hand or your forehead. Let it remind you always to recite this teaching of the Lord: ‘With a strong hand, the Lord rescued you from Egypt.’

- The Stone Tablets, Aarons Rod, The manna & quail
- God’s memorials of His trustworthiness!!!

- We celebrate Communion, to remember what God has done for us and the sacrifice Jesus made for us to be saved!
- Baptism: To remind us that we are not the same – we've been made clean and new thru Christ!
- Baby Dedication: in order to realize that we have placed our child in God's hands no matter what the future holds!
- Marriage: To make a covenant together of promises and life commitments
- These are all memorials in our lives!

Action Steps

- **Do you need to repent of: your complaining? Your Blaming? Looking back at ‘the good old days’?**
- **Where is your last memorial moment: that place you see where God has done something for you to show you He is leading?**
- **What can you do to remember this & remind you at the next crisis what God has already done?**
- **We will be celebrating Good Friday Communion, Easter – Resurrection Sunday & the following week Baptism for this very reason!!!**