

Sermon Outline

THE DESERT | Geoff Lin

Readings: Ex 15:22-27; Ex 16:1-12; Ex 17:1-7; Ex 17:8-13

"the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him ... " (Ex 14:31)

Through Moses' eyes (my travel diaries) ...

1. At Marah and Elim: no water (Ex 15:22-27)

"For three days they travelled in the desert without finding water" (v22)

"Marah" = "bitter"

"The people **grumbled** ..." (v24)

"Listen carefully to the LORD and do what is right in his eyes" (v26)

- *it's not like we Israelites were any better or more deserving than the Egyptians*

- *if He's brought us this far, He's hardly going to abandon us now!*

"Elim" = "place of strong trees"

2. In the Desert of Sin: now no food (Ex 16:1-11)

"In the desert the whole community **grumbled** against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." (vv2-3)

- *we belong to a bigger and better story*

"In the evening you will know that it was the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard you **grumbling** against him" (vv6-7)

"You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread in you want in the morning, because he has heard your **grumbling** against him" (v8)

"At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God" (v11)

"The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD" (Ex 14:4)

3. Rephidim (Part 1): still no water (Ex 17:1-7)

"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?" (v3)

"What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." (v4)

"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?" (v7)

- a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Ex 13:21)

4. Rephidim (Part 2): the Amalekites attack (17:8-13)

"Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands" (v9)

What I've learned ...

... about us: "Today, do not harden your heart"

- *learn from our mistakes, don't repeat them!*

" ... Today, if only you would hear his voice, "Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness, where your ancestors tested me; they tried me, though they had seen what I did." (Ps 95:7d-9)

John Beeson, "Grumbling is not a minor sin"
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/grumbling-sin/>

Scott Hubbard, "Do everything without grumbling"
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/do-everything-without-grumbling>

... about God: He IS trustworthy

Heb 3:12 See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. 14 We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. 15 As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."