

Exodus 15:22-25 - A Sweet Tree for a Bitter Life

Intro – We come today to celebrate... *The Supper*. But we might have come off a week that wasn't so wonderful & maybe you don't feel celebratory. High hopes but are "against the ropes." Life is like that. We can have big expectations but wind up with big frustrations. We thirst for things, but our thirst is often left unquenched. We live in a sin-stained world that is cursed...we have sin-stained lives that bring bitterness. But we come here today not to deny the bitterness but to declare that Jesus can bring a sweetness. The observance of the Supper is a power reminder of: 1] Past Redemption & 2] Future Promise. Our sin is paid for & our future is secure. But even as we reside in *the bitter in-between*...God graciously gives us a foretaste of glory divine. Today I want to use this account in Ex. 15 as an analogy of a reality for the Christian life. As we prepare ourselves for the Supper let us remind ourselves of our situation & of our Savior. *A DRY QUEST* A
TASTE TEST A TREE OF REST

A DRY QUEST

1. Most of Exodus 15 is a song of deliverance. It has high praise and a big party
 - a. God had just delivered them at the Red Sea...
 - b. ...they were on their way to the Promise Land (riding high with high hopes)
2. Exodus 15:22
 - a. They have just been delivered by water...now they are tested by water... ~~water~~
 - b. Three days is long time to be without water. Three days of thirst is a big test
3. Lesson
 - a. Life will test you...the Christian life will test you...God will test you
 - b. God will test us early and He will test us often
 - c. He will test us with "thirst" (what we crave most will likely be our biggest test)
4. Thirst is a powerful quest and a powerful test
 - a. Isaiah 30:20a Deut. 8:3,16
 - b. God gives us "thirst" to teach us what's best...& "hunger" to know what's better
 - c. Don't be surprised if you are "thirsty" on the journey to Eternity

A TASTE TEST

- After 3 days of being parched they spotted some "promised" relief
 - Oh, how happy I imagine they were when they found the waters of Marah
 - What joy to see the "solution" to their thirsty problem
 - But oh, how disappointed they must have felt when they tasted that water
- Marah was not a mirage, but it wasn't what it promised.
 - It was real water, but it was really disappointing water
 - Marah was bitter water (*Marah* = "bitter" a bitter place)
- Lesson There is a bitterness imbedded into this sin-stained life/world
 - Not all that glitters is gold (fools gold). Not all drinks can quench a thirst
 - The taste test of life says our *thirst* can never be fully quenched down here

- Sin is always bitter in the end...
- Even our earthly blessings are temporal at best
- I imagine all of us here could give testimony to the “*Marah*” of life
 - We have all tasted of “*bitter waters*” in high hopes that it would be sweet
 - But we are all still thirsty and left with a bitter taste in our mouths

A SWEET TREE OF REST

1. Exodus 15:24-25
 - a. The people complain wanting to be quenched
 - b. Their relief was in a tree
 - i. I don't think it is a stretch to see in this account the CROSS
 - ii. A Tree that makes things sweet
2. The CROSS can make the bitter water sweet
 - a. One of the beauties of redemption is the repurposing of our corruption
 - b. God doesn't change evil into good.... but He does work it for good (Romans 8:28)
 - i. God even uses our sin to sanctify us (Romans 5:20)
 - c. The cross can redeem you as a person and even repurpose your corruption
3. Only CHRIST can quench our thirst
 - a. Jesus encountered a woman at a well...married 5 times....shacked up....thirsty
 - i. John 4:14 John 7:37 Isaiah 55:1-3
 - b. Lesson – when we are parched, only a PERSON can quench our thirst....JESUS
4. THE SUPPER = A TANGIBLE GOSPEL....a tangible expression of the gospel.
 - a. We walk by faith and not by sight 2 Cor. 5:7
 - i. But in the Supper, we get to *See* the gospel...
 - ii. *Touch* the gospel.... *Smell* the gospel.....*Taste* the gospel
 - b. *Deaf Church Oklahoma* cant “hear” the gospel....but they can see it
 - i. The Supper is a *sign language* for our senses
 - c. Let us “*taste and see that the Lord is good*” (Psalm 34:8)

Open Communion

- The Supper is open to any believer -

Fencing the Table

the Lord's Supper is for the Lord's people only
There is a dramatic invitation imbedded within communion

Examining yourself

Solemn Celebration

Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to take Him at His word; Just to rest upon His promise, Just to know thus saith the Lord

O how sweet to trust in Jesus just to trust His cleansing blood; just in simple faith to plunge me neath the healing cleansing flood

Yes tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease; just from Jesus simply taking Life and rest, and joy and peace

I'm so glad I learned to trust Him, Precious Jesus Savior Friend; and I know that He is with me, will be with me to the end