



“Overcoming Bitterness”

Life’s Sweetener
Exodus 15:22-27

Choosing a life that is :

I. **Bitter** - “the waters of Marah...they were bitter” (vs. 22-24)

When we focus on:

- A. **Difficulty** – “three days into the wilderness...no water”
- B. **Disappointment** – “they could not drink of the water”
- C. **Dissent** – “the people murmured against Moses”

II. **Better** - “the waters were made sweet” (v. 25)

When we welcome:

- A. **Intervention** – “the LORD shewed them a tree”
- B. **Instruction** – “there he made for them a statute”
- C. **Inspection** – “there He proved them”

III. **Best** - “I will put none of these diseases upon thee” (vs. 26-27)

When we value:

- A. **Communication** – “hearken to the voice of the LORD”
Respond
- B. **Consideration** - “do that which is right in His sight”
Relent
- C. **Consecration** - “keep all His statutes”
Respect

Sentence Sermon:

*“ When we relish the sweetness of God’s mercy,
we can soon forget the bitter taste of our misery .”*

Additional Verses

- *John 4:10*
- *Jeremiah 17:9*
- *II Corinthians 12:7-10*
- *Deuteronomy 7:12-15, 28*
- *Psalms 106:7*
- *Matthew 6:21, 25-33*
- *James 1:12-18*
- *Hebrews 12:1-11*

Murmuring

- *Exodus 16:1-12*
- *Numbers 14:2, 27-29; 16:41; 17:1-10*
- *Deuteronomy 1:27*
- *Psalms 78:17; 106:14*

Questions to Ponder:

1. What are the key words or phrases in this passage?
2. Who is the central character of the passage?
3. How would you describe the conditions found in verse 22?
4. What does it tell us about the people who murmured?
5. What can we learn about dealing with murmurs from Moses?
6. What was God teaching Israel through this experience?
7. What was God “testing” in them?
8. What is the link between our spiritual & physical health?
9. Why can God always get the credit for any healing?
10. Why do you think God included the description in v. 27?

Introduction:

V. 22

- **Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea = Moses did itnot the LORD....no cloud or pillar of fire...yes the pillar of fire was still there but they probably were like we are and they focused at the Leader in front of them not God behind the Leader in front of them.**
- **They went three days in the wilderness = three days in difficult situation with children and women.....TOUGH**

- **Found no water = Exhausting....Anxiety....**

V. 23

- **Marah = same word as in Ruth 1:20...Name Naomi said to call her because the Lord made her life Bitter**
- **For they were bitter = so disappointingthey waited 3 days and came to water and could not drink it because it turned out to be bitter**

V. 24

- **The people murmured = grumble, complain**
- **Against Moses = His leadership and His God who he represented**
- **What shall we drink = valid question....its the attitude not the inquisitiveness that is the problem**

V. 25

- **He cried unto the LORD = same word found in 14:10; 14:15.....to cry out for help**
- **The LORD shewed him a tree =**
- **When he cast into the waters = how did he know to do thatobviously God told him and he followed the instruction and leading of God**
- **There he made for them:**
 - **A statute =**
 - **An Ordinance =**
- **There He proved them = to test or prove....**

V. 26

- **And said, If thou = It is a conditional statement....IFTHEN**
- **IF THOU WILT:**
 - **Diligently hearken to the voice = Be willing to respond to his leading and FOLLOW**
 - **Do that which is right in His sight = To give into God's opinion rather than hold to your own....not right in your sight but in HIS**
 - **Keep all His statutes = RESPECT his Decrees and desires for us to perform. CIRCUMCISION for them....LORDS SUPPER AND BAPTISM FOR US**
- **THEN:**
 - **I will put none of these diseases upon thee = NOTICE....this is repeated in Deuteronomy 7:12-15,....Part of the Old Covenant with ISRAEL....Principles still apply and even though not promised to believers**

- today...Doing God's will has a protective nature about it.
 - **READ FROM Book "None of these Diseases"**
- I am the LORD that healeth thee = YAHWEH - ROPHE

V. 27

- They came to Elim = notice ...no emphasis on Moses leading them there....argument from absence would be that GOD led them to Elim.
- Where:
 - Twelve wells of water= lots of water and multiple locations for quick consumption for 12 tribes
 - Threescore and ten palm trees = lots of shade and fruit
 - They encamped there by the waters = many cities are established next to rivers, lakes, sources of water because it has what we need.

5 Traits of a Bitter Person **SLIDE**

1. Jaded – When you just don't care about others it makes you a sociopath. The funny thing about bitter people is that they clearly DO care about what happens to THEM, just not what happens to those who have hurt them.
2. Jealous – hate that they have it and you don't
3. Holds a grudge – cant forgive and forget (not bring up again)
4. Melodramatic...attention getter creates a scene
5. Focuses only on the Negative