

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

November 2013

Moses: Learning To Lead God's Way

Lesson #8: Complaining

INTRODUCTION

Who do you know that has a consistently positive attitude? Why do you think they are that way?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Exodus 15:22-27

Note: God knows the need because He plans the way. He used the tree (suggesting the cross, 1 Peter 2:24) to make the bitter waters sweet. He is Jehovah-Rapha, "The Lord Who Heals."¹

1. What had the people just witnessed the LORD do three days earlier?
2. How would you describe their situation now?
3. Who is the target for their complaints? How did Moses respond to them?
4. Why do you think that the "wilderness" is part of God's plan for us? Dt 8:2, v. 26

Read Exodus 16:1-12

Note: The manna seems to be a unique provision by God just for the Israelites for 40 years. It stopped when the Israelites celebrated their first Passover in Canaan. Jos 5:12 This chapter should be read in connection with John 6, for the manna from heaven is a type of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. It also illustrates the written Word of God on which God's pilgrim people feed from day to day (Matt. 4:4).²

1. What was the Israelite's complaint now?
2. How did the LORD respond to their complaints?
3. What principles does Moses point out to the people? v 8

Read Exodus 17:1-7

Note: Providing enough water in a desert to quench the thirst of a group of more than 600,000 men, besides women and children, was a miracle of the highest order, all the more impressive considering that Israel spent 40 years in the desert. Moses' striking of the rock was not what produced the water, but rather God standing with Moses at the rock³

1. Even though God had provided for His people before, how did the Israelites handle this challenge?
2. What can we learn from Moses' reply to the people? His reply to the LORD?
3. What did Moses' staff represent?
4. What do we learn about our participation in God's work? About God's testing? About God's provision? About the Sabbath? About the imagery of Christ? John 4:10-14; John 6:32; 1 Cor 10:4, 1 Cor 15:56-57

APPLICATION

1. How can prayer be open and honest but not be offensive to God? Phil 4:19
2. How should you as a leader respond when your people complain?

You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

Don't complain against each other, brothers, or you will be judged.

The Judge is standing at the door! James 5:8-9

¹ ²Wiersbe, W. W. (1993). *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* (Ex 15:22-27). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

³ Cabal, T., Brand, C. O., Clendenen, E. R., Copan, P., Moreland, J., & Powell, D. (2007). *The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith* (112). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.