

SHOWED THEM A TREE

Ex 15:22-25

22 So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water.

23 Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah.

24 And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

25 So he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them,

- I. Now that Israel had seen the final defeat of the armies of Egypt, they began to take their first steps in the wilderness:
- A. Ex 15:22 And they went **three days in the wilderness and found no water**.
1. In the midst of a great need, Israel was about to get another lesson of preparation for entering their destiny, promise land:
 - a. even though having a visitation of God, promises from The Lord & prophetic words spoken over their life
 - (1) you would be surprised the number of believers today, who like Israel even though having to serve under a hard task master like Pharaoh
 - (2) would prefer to stay in bondage of Egypt, return to their paste, because in their minds it at least offered some realm of security because they were familiar with it
 - (a) They knew how to **live like slaves**
 - (1) But they **did not know how to be free**
 - (b) They knew how to live in the **hardships of Egypt** / a type of the world
 - (1) but did not know how to **walk by faith** (2 Cor 5:7)

B. Ex 15:23 Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were **bitter**. Therefore the name of it was called **Marah**.

24 And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

 1. So we find Israel looking for water, desiring to quench their thirst and they finally come to Marah & find water.... but there is a problem:
 - a. **“they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter”**
 - (1) **Def Marah:** bitterness
 - (a) no doubt this was a great disappointment....to be thirsty & discover that the waters were bitter

2. So Israel did, what a lot of people do when they experience any type of bitterness in life:
 - a. **THEY FIND SOMEONE TO BLAME & COMPLAIN ABOUT**
 - (1) “the people complained against Moses”
3. When a people or person does not know how to deal effectively with bitterness
 - a. it will bring out their immaturity
 - b. and they go into the attack mode
4. The Pillar of Fire & the Pillar of a Cloud / the glory of The Lord, led Israel to Marah,.... God led Israel to these bitter waters....while they were thirsty
 - a. and the Holy Spirit will do the same thing in:
 - (1) our lives, our marriage, church, ministry
 - (2) so that we may mature spiritually & learn to overcome the bitterness that comes our way in life
 - (3) Faith is not for trying to create a perfect world
 - (a) Rather: Faith is for overcoming an imperfect world
5. God knew that if Israel & He knows the same of us that if we do not learn to overcome the bitter waters that come into our life
 - a. we can never enter into our promise land / DESTINY

C. Heb 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

1. Note: Bitterness has a **root**
 - a. if not dealt with the roots of bitterness will go down deep into our heart & mind
2. The bible teaches us two things every believer is to pursue:
 - a. **PEACE** with all people & **HOLINESS**
 - (1) **Def Pursue**: to press forward
 - (a) it requires great effort on our part, as well as the crucifying of the flesh to pursue peace & holiness
3. But PEACE & HOLINESS carry a great reward:
 - a. we are told if we do not pursue peace & holiness “**no one will see The Lord**”
 - b. but if we do pursue Peace will all men & holiness:
 - (1) we will see God
 - (2) we will experience his goodness & blessings & victory He promised
4. Then we are given a couple of warnings in scripture:
 - a. vs 15 “Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God”

“lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble”

(1) **Def Bitterness:** poison

(a) Can you imagine waking up every day & drinking poison

(b) spiritually that is what we do when we allow bitterness & resentment into our mind,, words, heart & attitude

© Bitterness it is a steady diet of a slow death, that causes **trouble** to spring up in every arena of our life:

(1) our health, relationships, ministry, career, finances

b. What is really bad about bitterness is the fact that **BITTERNESS IS CONTAGIOUS**

(1) Heb 12:15 by this (BITTERNESS) many become **defiled**;

(A) **Def DEFILE**: contaminate, foulness

5. Have you ever fellowshiped with / talked with a bitter person?

a. If you are not careful they will defile you thru their bitter words

b. Example: Typhoid Mary:

(a) she was a waitress who had typhoid....as she served people in the restaurant where she worked she passed on typhoid fever, contaminated / defiled the customers...as she spoke to them breathed on them & their food

(1) bitterness defiles people the same way....it is passed on by the individual sick with bitterness

6. As we walk through our wilderness experiences in life and you come to your Marah: **DON'T LET LIFE MAKE YOUR BITTER**

a. We each must learn of the spiritual key that turns our Marah / our bitter waters sweet again

c. Quit looking for someone else to blame for your Marah, bitter waters

d. Quit yielding to the flesh & stop complaining when you experience bitter waters

e. Quit looking to man, the government when your thirsty & the waters are bitter
Murmuring, crying, complaining like Israel did in vs 24

(1) **‘What shall we drink’**

(a) bitterness will cause you to be consumed with your need

II. Ex 15:25 So he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord **showed him a tree**. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made **sweet**.

A. Moses did what we are all suppose to do when we come to our Marah & face our Bitter waters:

1. **“So he cried out to The Lord”**

a. Only God can heal our bitter waters

b. It is Him we are to look to during the bitter times of life & ministry

B. Next God simply did not go & heal the bitter waters for Moses & Israel: Rather God gives Moses a revelation:

1. many times this is how God moves on our behalf when we experience bitterness

a. Seldom does the Lord cause fire to fall from heaven & automatically make everything better

b. God usually does with us, as He did with Moses:

(1) He gives us a revelation

(2) He gives us a revelation from His Word

(3) And fully expects us to act on it

2. Ex 15:25 **and the Lord showed him a TREE.**

a. When God Showed Moses a Tree, The Lord was giving Moses a prophetic revelation of the **POWER OF THE CROSS** OF THE COMING MESSIAH JESUS CHRIST:

3. Gal 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a **tree**"), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

a. Because Jesus Christ hung on Calvary's Cross & became cursed for you & I

(1) **"Blessings of Abraham might come"**

(2) BLESSING MIGHT COME

(3) BLESSINGS MIGHT COME

(4) The Power of the Tree / CROSS can heal our bitter waters & release Blessings

C. We understand that Jesus died on Calvary's Cross & rose again...but still BLESSINGS do not automatically come upon everyone because of Jesus' Cross:

1. God does not just automatically heal our Bitter waters we experience in life, Simply because Jesus died on the Cross & even though His cross has power:

We must do what Moses did: **WE MUST ACT ON THE REVELATION**

a. Ex 15:25 **When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet.**

(1) **Like Moses we must learn to activate & release the Power of The Cross by casting it into our bitters waters of life**

(a) By Faith take hold of Calvary's cross & throw the Cross of Jesus / speak the promises of God's word that relate to the Power of The Cross

- (b) And cast it into your bitter situation
- (c) Cast it into the offense you experienced
- (d) Cast it into the disappointment
- (e) Cast it into the rejection that came your way
- (1) and you will experience what Moses & all Israel experienced:
 - (a) “vs 25 **“the waters were made sweet”**”

III. When you experience bitterness in life, **learn to release the POWER OF THE CROSS:**

A. Col 1:20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

1. Cast the cross of Jesus into your bitter waters & experience the peace of God thru the BLOOD of Jesus Cross

A. allow the Cross of Jesus Christ to sweeten your bitter waters

B. 1Cor 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1. The **“MESSAGE OF THE CROSS”**

a. contains the **POWER OF GOD**

(1) **Def POWER:** dunamis / miraculous power, mighty power

2. Are you releasing the power of bitterness:

a. and bringing trouble into your life

b. and defiling everyone you come into contact with thru your bitter words and attitude

3. Or do you grab hold of the TREE / The Cross of Jesus & cast it into your Bitter situation

a. thus releasing & activating the power of God in your life

b. and experiencing the Holy Spirit making your bitter waters SWEET