

**God Will Lead You Through:  
"To Supply All You Need"  
Exodus 16:1-16**

**Big Idea – I need to learn to trust God to supply all my needs.**

Intro: Notice how the chapter starts: "What shall we eat?" (16:1-3)

Uppermost in the minds of the Israelites wasn't how to please God but "What shall we eat?" and "What shall we drink?"

Do you recall, according to Jesus, what these questions reveal?  
An anxious heart, not a trusting heart (Matt. 6:21, 25-33) & this can lead to all kinds of problems.

**1. The people's complaint**

Exodus 16:1 Then the whole community of Israel set out from Elim and journeyed into the wilderness arriving there ... one month after leaving the land of Egypt.

2 There, too, the whole community of Israel complained about Moses and Aaron.

3 "If only the LORD had killed us back in Egypt," they moaned. "There we sat around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death."

They were only away from Egypt a month and still remembered the "flesh pots" of Egypt and the food they had eaten "to the full." Yet, somehow, they'd forgotten the bondage, the beatings, and the misery of their forced labor as slaves. They accused Moses and Aaron of deliberately leading them into the wilderness to kill them. They said they wished the Lord had killed them in Egypt when they were full rather than in the desert when they were empty!

Little did they know that they would one day get their request, for the entire older generation would die in the wilderness and never get to the Promised Land.

## **They forgot all God had done for them**

### **Complaints are always against God, not people**

Exodus 16:7 ...the LORD has heard you grumble against Him. We are nothing, so you are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD.“

8 And Moses said, “the LORD will give you meat to eat in the evening, and every morning He will give you all the bread you want, because He has heard you grumble against Him. You are not grumbling against Aaron and me, because we are nothing; you are grumbling against the LORD.“

## **2. God’s promise of enough – vss. 4,5**

Exodus 16:4 Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will cause food to fall like rain from the sky for all of you. Every day the people must go out and gather what they need for that day. I want to see if the people will do what I teach them.

5 On the sixth day of each week, they are to gather twice as much as they gather on other days. Then they are to prepare it.“

12 “I have heard the grumbings of the people of Israel. So tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and every morning you will eat all the bread you want. Then you will know I am the LORD your God.’ “

In our pilgrim journey through life, we need to live on promises and not explanations. When we hurt, it's a normal response to ask "Why?" but that is the wrong question! Why? 😊

For one thing, when we ask God that question, we're assuming a superior posture and giving the impression that we're in charge and God is accountable to us. God is sovereign and doesn't have to explain anything to us unless He wants to.

Asking "Why?" also assumes that if God did explain His plans and purposes to us, we'd understand everything perfectly and feel better.

When you read the Book of Job, you see Job frustrated with God and repeatedly saying, "I'd like to meet God and ask Him a few things!" But when God finally comes to Job, Job is so overwhelmed he doesn't ask God a thing! (See Job 40:1-5.)

Can we begin to understand the ways and plans of God when His ways are far above us and His wisdom unsearchable?

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, says the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Romans 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

Explanations don't heal broken hearts, but promises do, because promises depend on faith, and faith puts us in contact with the grace of God.

### **3. God's glory – vss. 6,7, 9,10**

Exodus 16:7 Tomorrow you will see the glory of the LORD,

Exodus 16:10 And as Aaron spoke to the whole community of Israel, they looked out toward the wilderness. There they could see the awesome glory of the LORD in the cloud.

The important thing was that Israel focus on the glory of God and not on their own appetites. If they walked by faith, they would glorify the Lord and bring honor to His name.

When trials and troubles come, we pray, "Lord, how can I get out of this?" instead we ought to be praying, "Lord, what can I get out of this?"

It isn't important that we get our way, but it is important that God accomplishes His purposes and receives all the glory (Matt. 6:33).

God permits trials so that He can build godly character into His children and make us more like Jesus. Godliness isn't the automatic result of reading books and attending meetings; it involves bearing burdens, fighting battles, and feeling pain. (James 1:2 – 4)

#### **4. God's faithfulness (vv. 13-15)**

Exodus 16:13 That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp.

14 When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost were on the desert ground.

15 When the Israelites saw it, they asked each other, "What is it?" because they did not know what it was. So Moses told them, "This is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.

That evening, the quail flew over the camp of Israel and the people caught them, dressed them, and cooked them. They had asked for fresh meat, and God provided it. The Jews had seen wild fowl before, but what happened the next morning was altogether new, for the manna appeared on the dew on the ground. God prepared a table in the wilderness and shared "the bread of angels" with His people (Ps. 78:17-25).

The word "manna" comes from the question the Jews asked that first morning: "What is it?" (In Hebrew, man hu.) Manna was to be their food for the next forty years, until the new generation entered the Promised Land and the manna ceased (Ex. 16:35; Josh. 5:11-12). Each morning the Jews participated in a miracle as they emerged from their tents to find all the nourishment they needed waiting on the dew. The manna was small, like a seed, but it tasted sweet like honey (Ex. 16:31).

#### **5. God's Son the Bread of Life**

(John 6:22-59; Isaiah. 55:2; Job 23:12; Jer. 15:16; Matt. 4:4; 1 Peter 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14).

The day after He fed more than 5,000 people with five barley loaves and two small fish, Jesus preached a sermon about "the bread of life" to a crowd in the synagogue in Capernaum. They wanted Him to prove He was the Messiah by duplicating the miracle of the manna (vv. 30-31), but instead, He declared that He was "the true bread" that came down from heaven. The Old Testament manna was a type or picture of God's Son who came to give Himself as the Bread of Life for hungry sinners.

The Jews in the synagogue were following Jesus mainly because He gave them food for the body, but what they needed even more was food for the soul (Isaiah 55:2).

Jesus is the Bread of Life, and the only way to be saved is to receive Him into our inner being just as the body receives food. God gave the manna only to Israel, but He sent Jesus for the whole world. The manna only sustained their physical life in the wilderness, but God's Son gives eternal life to the whole world. Just as the Jews had to stoop and pick up the manna, and then eat it, so sinners must humble themselves and receive Jesus Christ within. The Jews ate the manna and eventually died, but whoever receives Jesus Christ will live forever.

There's a second application to the miracle of the manna: each day, you and I must "feed on Jesus Christ" by reading the Word, meditating on it, and obeying what it says. The Jews in the synagogue thought that Jesus was speaking about literally eating His flesh and blood (John 6:52-56), something that was contrary to Jewish law. Jesus made it clear that He was speaking in spiritual language and referring to receiving His Word (vv. 61-63). However, Peter got the message (vv. 67-68), and so must we. God's Word is the heavenly food that nourishes our spiritual life, and we must feed on it daily (Job 23:12; Jer. 15:16; Matt. 4:4; 1 Peter 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14).

## **6. God's gift of Sabbath – "rest"**

Exodus 16:23 Moses told them, "This is what the LORD commanded: Tomorrow will be a day of complete rest, a holy Sabbath day set apart for the LORD. So bake or boil as much as you want today, and set aside what is left for tomorrow."

In verse 23, the Sabbath is mentioned by name for the first time in Scripture. It's called "the seventh day" in Genesis 2:1-3 and commemorated the Lord's rest after six days of creation. It seems obvious that the Jews were taught to observe the Sabbath even before God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

While many sincere people call Sunday the Sabbath, this isn't biblical, for the Sabbath is the seventh day and Sunday is the first day of the week. The Sabbath was a day given especially by the Lord to the Jewish people as a reminder of His covenant with them (Ex. 20:8-11; 31:12-17; Neh. 9:13-15). The word "sabbath" in Hebrew means "to cease working, to rest" and is related to the Hebrew word for "seven."