

Sermon Notes – November 18, 20

Thankfulness & Thanksgiving Day

*“It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name,
O Most High; to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,
and Your faithfulness by night.”*

Psalm 91:1,2

*“Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of
God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to
His protection and favor...I do recommend and assign Thursday the
of November next to be devoted by the people of these States to the
of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of
good that was, that is, or that will be.”*

President George Washington, October 3, 1789

Exodus 16 – Entering into the Story

⇒ After 400 years of slavery in Egypt, God is now delivering His people
the leadership of His servant Moses.

⇒ The
Ten

Plagues, culminating in the Passover Celebration, have just happened
followed by God’s amazing deliverance through the Red Sea.

⇒ The transition from the mountain-top to real life in a desert is a rough
The complaining begins almost immediately. See 15:22-27.

⇒ Keys to the Story: The wilderness journey and the story of manna are
iconic. They are, by God’s design, a picture of life’s journey, AND the
picture of Christ Himself. Exodus 16 is a key story to understand the
New Testament!

The People: I’m Only Human & I Want Things

⇒ We tend to be MORE aware of our _____ needs and LESS aware of
God’s gracious provision for our spiritual deliverance.

- “We may have been slaves, but we sure ate well.”
- “Remember the good old days?” (Were they?)

⇒ We tend to _____ others for our discomfort and _____ our
complaining spirit. In this case, blame the leaders!

- ⇒ We too often _____ God for not doing a better job of meeting our needs – though we would never think of it that way. See 17:7! Do you see the ramifications of this question? This is the classic “Problem of Evil.”
- If the Lord is with me, I should be healthier & happier.
 - If the Lord is with me, I shouldn’t have these problems.
 - If the Lord is with me, I should not be depressed.
 - If the Lord is with me, our home should be happier, our marriage should be stronger, our children should be better behaved...

The Provision: God’s Daily Grace

- ⇒ Manna isn’t fancy, but it is a _____ & _____ provision. The proper response to manna in the desert is “Thank you,” not, “But where’s the A-1 Sauce?”
- ⇒ God graciously sends manna to _____ people! Do you see the amazing kindness of God? In 16:4, God says, “manna,” not hailstones or lightning! Romans 2:4 - it is God’s _____ that leads us to repentance.
- ⇒ God sends manna _____ on purpose. It can’t be saved up for tomorrow. Do you see the familiar battle here between trust and fear? What if God doesn’t show up tomorrow? Then what will I do?
- ⇒ God gives Sabbath rest as a test and as a _____, not a burden. It is a foretaste of greater rest to come.

** Book suggestion: *“Running Scared: Fear, Worry, & the God of Rest”* (Welch)

Responding to God’s Word: Do You See the Gospel?

- ⇒ A Reality Check: This isn’t the Promised Land yet; we’re still in the desert. And God is NEAR the whole time! Cf. 16:10
- ⇒ A Warning: Beware lest you accuse God of evil by a complaining spirit.
- ⇒ A Lesson: In another desert far, far away, the Son of God Himself faced a similar temptation to complain about lack of bread. He perfectly resisted temptation – in my place.
- ⇒ A Prayer: *“Thank you, Lord, for the daily grace you send in the form of food and shelter and health and people. These are indeed your good gifts to me.”*

Next Sunday: November 25, 2018

“Our Lives Should Match Our Words”

(Matthew 7:13-28)

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