

Grumbling in the Wilderness

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, February 20, 2022; Exodus 15:22-17:7; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme: God is a God who saves and a God who sanctifies. God provides His people with a glorious salvation from death and enslavement, and God will continue to provide His people with everything they need in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. The question is: will we trust Him or will we grumble? The Israelites grumbled in the wilderness. What will we do?

I. Israel in the Wilderness – Read Exodus 15:22-17:7

- A. How would you summarize the book of Exodus from Exodus 1:1 to Exodus 15:21?
- B. In what ways is grumbling a symptom of ingratitude towards God for what He had already done or a lack of faith in what God might do? How did God respond to Israel's grumbling?
- C. How did the provision of manna teach Israel about faith and trust? How did it teach them to rest on the Sabbath? What can we learn from their experience in the wilderness?
- D. As you compare Israel's 3 wilderness experiences, how would you evaluate their response to difficulty? Does their response get better or worse? And why would you say that?

II. Christ in the Wilderness – Read Matthew 4:1-11

- A. What connections do you make between Jesus and Israel in Matthew 4:1-11? How does Jesus demonstrate that He is the One True Israelite in these verses? In the rest of Matthew?
- B. Read John 6:25-59. How does Jesus demonstrate that He is the Bread from heaven who came down to bring salvation to the world? How do the Jews respond to Jesus?
- C. Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-10. How does Jesus demonstrate that He is the Rock that was struck in order to save our souls? How do these verses help us understand Israel's role in our lives?

III. Response to the Wilderness – Read Philippians 2:14

- A. As you evaluate your life, where do you think you grumble the most — health, finances, relationships, daily inconveniences, or other areas or people in your life?
- B. As you think about grumbling, how would you rank it in a list of sins?
- C. Do you interpret grumbling as you not trusting God to provide in your life? Why or why not?
- D. Are you taking the grumbling that you see in your life serious? What steps are you taking to stop grumbling and to start trusting God's provision and God's plan more and more?