

“Complain or Cry Out”

Ex. 15:22-26

Intro:

- The children of Israel had been in captivity for approximately 430 years, and after these 430 years God used Moses to help deliver His people from the bondage of Pharaoh.
- God wanted His people to live the best life possible; but in order for this to take place, His people would have to transition from trusting in man to trusting in God.
- To prepare His people to live in the land He had prepared for them, God leads them in a way that would teach them to trust in God. **Ex. 13:17**

Story: Ex. 15:22-26

- We read a *Declaration* of God’s goodness. **vs. 1-21**
 - The Children of Israel declare the strength and salvation of God. **vs. 1-2**
 - The Children of Israel declare the deliverance of God and his destruction of an enemy. **vs. 3-10**
 - The Children of Israel declare the power and prominence of God. **vs. 12-21**
 - “Don’t allow your focus to shift from the person of God to the provisions of God.”
- We find *Dire* circumstances in the wilderness. **vs. 22-24**
 - They had been walking in one of the world’s hottest regions for three days and had found no water.
 - After 3 days of wandering in the wilderness, the children of Israel find water, but to their dismay they cannot drink it because it is bitter.
 - Upon this discovery, almost immediately, the children of Israel begin to murmur (complain; pout).
- We see *Divine* intervention. **vs. 25**
 - As the leader, Moses no doubt felt the pressure of being responsible for these some 1.5 – 3 million Jews.
 - Moses responds to God, not with the same complaining as his fellow Jews, but with a cry for help.
 - God did not respond to the people’s complaining, He responded to Moses’ cry for help.
 - God uses Moses to bring sweetness to the water, allowing all to get the much-needed water.
- We hear a *Daunting* reminder. **vs. 26**
 - Diligently hearken to the voice. A certain closeness to God; a desire to do not just the commands, but to perform the wishes of God.
 - Do the commands of God. Not just seeking to please God when the relationship is sweet or understood; but to obey every command regardless of understanding or circumstance.
 - Diseases will be deterred. There is a protection that comes to the child of who is obedient to the Word of God. Obedience not only protects, but it also provides an avenue by which God can bless His children.

Tran:

- The circumstances God leads us to are not meant to cause despair; but dependance on God. The trial of faith is not intended to destroy man; but to increase one’s capacity to serve God.
- When faced with a testing of faith the response is our choice. We can make a choice by principle, or we can allow our emotions to control us.
- God has the answer prepared for our problems; we must seek His face and wait for His solution. Many times, God permits times of “drought” in order to improve our relationship with Him.

I. Recognize, complaining about difficulties never has, and never will, fix problems in life.

- A. We must learn to depend on God for the most basic of our necessities. **Mt. 6:25-34**
- i. Complaining is a carnal man's response to financial or economic struggles, while faith is the response that activates the blessings, of God, in difficult times for the obedient child of God.
Num. 20:1-6
 - ii. Complaining is the natural response of a carnal man; but when, in faith, we bring our complaints before God; we will receive an answer to prayer.
 1. We naturally start off complaining... **Ps 142:2** *"I poured out my complaint before him; I shewed before him my trouble."*
 2. ...but when we spend time in prayer, our complaint (seeking what we want) is turned to crying (seeking what God wants for us). **Ps. 142:5** *"I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living."*
- B. We need to realize that complaining about the trials God brings into our life does not change our circumstances it will only rob us of God's blessings.
- i. We should not seek carnal solutions to a spiritual problem. **I Cor. 10:5-10**
 - ii. We should learn to depend on God; before we find out God is the only one, we can depend on. **Num. 21:4-9**
 - *"Complaining is the result of a lack of faith in God."*

II. We need to recognize that God is aware of our heartaches.

- A. God knows the path we are on in life.
- i. **Job23:8-10** *"Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: [9] On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: [10] But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."*
 - ii. **Job 28:23-24** *"God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof. [24] For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven;"*
- B. God wants to meet our needs; but more than that, He wants to strengthen our relationship with him. **Mt. 7:7-11** *"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: [8] For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. [9] Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? [10] Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? [11] If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"*
- i. The Lad in the Wilderness cried out and God heard.
 - ii. Hannah cried in her time of need and God heard.
 - iii. The Children of Israel cried while in bondage and God hear their cry.
 - iv. Manoah cried unto God, and he gained wisdom on how to rear his son for God.
 - v. Paul and Silas did not pout, they sang praise unto the Lord at midnight and the Lord heard their voice and delivered them from prison.

III. God does not want to hear our complaining; but He will listen when we cry out.

- A. It is always the cry of God's people that got God's attention. Complaining only brings judgement and a postponing of God's blessings. **Heb. 4:15-16** *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*
- i. **Ex. 2:23-24** *"And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. [24] And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob."*
 - ii. **Ex. 3:7** *"And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;"*
- B. When we are faced with times of despair, we need to refrain from complaining and cry out to God.
- i. **Ps. 18:1-6** *"I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. [2] The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. [3] I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. [4] The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. [5] The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. [6] In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears."*
 - ii. **Ps. 34:4, 15-19** *"I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. [15] The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. [16] The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. [17] The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. [18] The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. [19] Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all."*
 - iii. **Ps. 61:1-2** *"Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. [2] From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I."*

Close:

- When times of difficulty come, learn to depend on God; cry out, do not complain.
- Do not delay God's blessings on your life or bring on yourself unnecessary trials by complaining.

Ps. 34:4

"I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."

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1. For approximately how many years did the children of Israel spend in Egypt's captivity? **430 years**
 2. How many days did the children of Israel go without water before coming to Marah? **3 days**
 3. We need to recognize, **?????** about difficulties never has and never will fix problems in life. **Complaining**
 4. We need to recognize that God is aware of our **?????**. **Heartaches**
 5. God does not want to hear our complaining; but He will listen when we **???????**. **Cry Out**