

Stress Test

Exodus 15:22-26

Sermon Outline

A. A Stressful Situation (vs 22-24):

1. Led Israel; To set aside – Moses instructed the people to ‘pull up’ their tents and continuously move from being by the Red Sea towards the Promise Land.
2. Led Israel; To set aside – God now sets His people aside from His non-covenanted people after they were paid for all their years of free labor. This came after the blood on the door post and a walk through the Red Sea.
3. Went into the wilderness; To go forth – The people, along with their families, their belongs and their animals continuously set up to move away from the Red Sea towards the Promise Land. They went about a three-day walk.
4. Went three days; Walked together – They headed in a specific direction because they had a specific reason for leaving Egypt. This is now their main mission.
5. Found no water; Happened to us, befallen us – Part of the reason why they headed out on a three-day journey was to find water on their way to the Promise Land.
6. They came – Their movement was continuous until they can find water for their families and their animals. They were not going to stop until this was done.
7. Called – After a three days walk and then finding bitter water, they shouted out in a sustained voice and named the place Marah. Their frustration would mount to a vocal assault on Moses.
8. Name – The name Marah was chosen because it represented the true nature of the water and what that means in Israel’s history.
9. Murmured; Abide, last, lodge - The people remained there, as if there is no water anywhere, with no plans to leave. After three days and no water spotted in a desert they were determined to remain there.
10. Saying, “what shall we drink” – Moses led the people to the water source so he has to resolve the issue. They spoke to him summoning him to do what is necessary to get them water to drink; this is a desert.

B. The Test of Faith (vs. 25b-26; Deuteronomy 8:1-10):

1. Moses cannot resolve the issue. It is beyond his ability to change the nature of the water, when they are most likely out of water, for roughly two million people.
2. Then he cried out - Moses distressfully in a loud voice called out for help to the Lord.
3. Lord – Moses viewed the Lord as powerful, almighty, and deeply committed to His relationship with His people.
4. The Lord – It seems like this is an immediate response and the person responding is Jesus Christ.
5. The Lord teach, to instruct, to point out - The word 'show him' means that Christ continuously communicated to Moses specifically what the tree looks like. It is important that Moses selects the tree that Christ instructs him to use. Seems very similar to the Garden of Eden and the specific instructions on what tree to pick from.
6. And he threw it into the waters - Moses remained continuously focused on following Christ directions by selecting the correct tree and then casting it into the water.
7. And he threw it into the waters - Moses had a private meeting with Christ to continuously carry out specific instructions and continuously made every effort to complete the task just as Christ directed him to do.
8. He made for them – Christ establishes as a set condition all that would cause the nation to be completely restored so that they enjoy their new found freedom from Egypt as His nation, constantly supplied and sustained by Him.
9. He made for them – This experience of God's nation (2 million of them) in a desert with no water or food is a set condition to establish how He plans to take care of them.
10. Statues – Christ provides them His precepts and rules that He is directing them to strictly obey.
11. Regulation; Judgment - Christ also provides them civil laws so that His new found country would know how to operate as a nation.
12. Tested – Christ intended that these statues and regulations become the process that exposes what is going on in each person's heart.
13. Tested – Christ uses these statues and regulations to completely demonstrate what is quality of each person's character when they are placed in difficult situations.
14. Said – Christ continues to continuously speak to the nation after He has blessed them with the much-needed water especially when this is taking place in a desert.
15. Said – Christ is speaking to the nation teaching them how He plans to lead so they can live a blessed life.
16. If you give earnest heed – This is a conditional statement, 'if'. If they don't this does not work in their favor.
17. If you give earnest heed – Christ wants for them to continuously provide a heart that is receptive to come to a full understanding of all He is going to say.
18. If you give earnest heed – Christ continuously wants their undivided attention

with a heart that desires His Word and is therefore willing and ready to do what He is teaching.

19. Voice of the Lord your God; Proclamation – The voice of the Lord means that this is not Moses’s talking to them. Christ wants the people to know it is the voice of the One who has all authority and power and this voice is the same as the voice of God who is sovereign and rules over all.
20. To do what is right - They must continuously put a lot of purposeful energy, with a deep sense of commitment to obey statutes and regulations set before them. Now that they know what to do ‘they much do it with all their might.’
21. Sight; Eyes – They must remember that whatever they choose to do Christ sees it all. There is no place to have a hidden agenda or a hidden lifestyle. It is always fully exposed to Christ.
22. Commandments – What Christ is saying is not a suggestion it is a clear directive that He expects them to follow. It must be followed because it is His law.
23. Keep or guard all the statutes – All the precepts and rules that Christ teaches them must become regulations that they preserve in their hearts. They must guard it like David would say in Psalm 119:10-11.
24. Keep or guard all the statutes – No circumstance, no cultural norms, no other nation should be able to make them turn away from obeying the Lord. These situations should make them even more determined to be faithful in doing what the Lord directs them to do (Daniel 1:8).
25. Put – It was God who placed all the plagues on Egypt, so He made a choice not to allow Israel to experience what Egypt went through. They must remember the power He has to do this.
26. I, the Lord, am your healer – This is very personal as to what God is going to do for a people who have no hospitals as they live in the wilderness.
27. I, the Lord, am your healer – The Lord is making it clear at the time they need restoration from a three-day walk (this ends with a miracle taking place making bitter water sweet), at a time when they saw His power in Egypt, He is the one who restores and makes whole again.

“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law, he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but they are like chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.”
(Psalm 1; NASU)