

The Wilderness Test

Main Lesson: Do we believe God is good? (Ex. 17: 3-4)

When might we question God's goodness? It is usually during times of trials and distress that we begin to question the goodness of God. In trials we may think that God is trying to harm us, or we may begin to think that God will not provide for us. This is the mindset of the people of Israel in Exodus 17. They grumbled and complained, even going as far as to question the goodness of God by accusing Moses of ill intentions.

"Why did you ever bring us out of Egypt to kill us and our children and our livestock of thirst"
(Ex. 17:3)

God didn't redeem Israel to forsake them, but instead to save them and lead them into a prosperous future(Ex. 3:8). The Israelites lost sight of that promise when they came face to face with the harsh conditions of the wilderness. Their "wilderness test" is not that much different from our own. While it is true that we are not be faced with the scorching dessert heat they faced or living the nomadic lifestyle they lived; we too face tests of faith, trails of many kinds, and our own personal struggles that can cause us to lose sight of the goodness of God. In the 8th chapter of Luke, Jesus describe this reality in the parable of the sower (Luke 8:5-15).

As believers we should remember that God is leading us through a greater exodus, in which we have been redeem and are being led by our mediator to everlasting prosperity. And if God, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, has provided the solution for our biggest problem (sin, death, and eternal separation from everlasting love), then we have no reason to question His goodness or doubt His faithfulness when facing our day to day problems. God is good. Believe it.

"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart, my portion forever"
(Psalm 73:26)

Suggestions until next time

Read Luke 8:5-15 the Parable of the Sower

- <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+8%3A5-15&version=NIV>

Read Psalm 73

- <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+73+&version=NIV>

Read 1 Corinthians 10: 1-12

- <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+10%3A1-11&version=MSG>

Finally [...] whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:8)