

# MARAH

## PART ONE

### S041 26 0222P

We desire to speak on a subject which can be expressed in one word: “Marah,” and it also could be termed as “bitter things.”

After Israel had come out of the land of Egypt across the Red Sea, their experiences reveal many things to us and are really a beacon light. We have termed “Marah” the gateway to blessing, or the gateway to sweetness.

Sampson gave a riddle: *“Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness.”* (Judges 14:14)

By this he meant that out of the carcass of the lion he had found some honey. Of course, the carcass of the lion was anything but sweet—it was very bitter—but he got some honey, which I suppose he washed to make it perfectly clean. That was the way he expressed his riddle: *“Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness.”*

That riddle reveals real light on our pathway. The pastor said, “I do not know what the average Christian thinks, but I had supposed that when a person had given his life to God and become a real Christian every trouble would immediately cease; but, instead, I found it just the opposite. Mine seemed to multiply, I seemed to get into one trouble after another. I was no sooner out of one than I got into another. I was very much confounded and could not understand why that condition existed.

The reason I was confused was that I did not know the Scriptures. If I had known the Scriptures we are going to look into briefly, I would have been comforted and encouraged and would have gotten more out of my trials, and would have been delivered from them more quickly.

Although it is the lot of the Christian to have trials and temptations (trouble), it is only a question of when they have them, as they are just opposite to the troubles usually experienced in the world.

While the world does not have the same troubles, their troubles are at the end of their lives, for time and eternity. They have a good time in their youth, they strive to accumulate money, etc. But a time of real trouble and distress overtakes them, which finally ends in utter destruction.

The Christian’s troubles are all at the beginning, if they learn to meet them right and go through with God right.

We are to have trials, tribulations, and temptations of every kind. We are to go through many “Marahs” in our Christian walk, especially in the early part of our Christian life where our experiences will be exceedingly bitter. If we have any idea that it is not to be so, we might as well be disillusioned at once.

The Bible reveals the reason for these bitter places and bitter experiences and trials; and it also reveals the way to meet them, and it repeats the glory which follows them. All the richest blessings God has for His people of real growth and development are preceded by trials, temptations, difficulties and “Marahs.”

Paul told the Thessalonians they were to have great persecutions, great trials and temptations, and they did have them; hence, he wrote them in this language—*“For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation.”* (1 Thessalonians 3:4)

In another place Paul writes in this manner—*“And that we must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God.”* (Acts 14:22) God could make it otherwise, if it would be best for us; but, we would never be prepared for the blessing which God has for us here, nor prepared for eternity. Going through these “Marahs” or trials, temptations, and difficulties successfully and being delivered out of them in God’s way prepares us for eternity.

The little example, which we will take up a little later sheds great light on why we are called upon to go through hard experiences and deep trials.

Peter gives us light on this subject: —*“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations.”* (1 Peter 1:6) Many and various kinds of trials—*“That the trials of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”* “That the trial of your faith,” —this means many and various kinds of “Marahs.”

Then he tells us how we are to meet and go through them. The Bible reveals that there is only one class of people who can go through right. Remember that there were four classes of people who heard the Word of God and accepted it; but only one class went through.

The first class, Satan succeeded in robbing at once, they did not believe; hence he took the Word of God right out of their hearts. The second class received the Word gladly, but in the time of persecution and trial

because of the Word, they fell away. They had never settled it to go through.

Jesus said when we come to Him, we are to sit down and count the cost; we are to sit down and carefully consider whether it is going to pay us and whether we are willing to go through with God. Our decision to go through must be final and permanent, if we wish to make a real success and enter into the wonderful blessings God has for us just beyond "Marah." Just after we go through "Marah," we approach the way of fulness of blessing, and it will also prove the way to Heaven.

*"If any man come to me, and hate not his father and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sister, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."* Luke 14:26

The word "hate" here means "does not regard less;" it is a Greek word which means to convey that if we do not regard less our father, mother, sister, brother, or children, and even our own life also, we cannot be His disciple.

This means that we should sit down and carefully consider what it will mean to give these lives to God and to put ourselves into His school and workshop to be taught and trained as a disciple of His. The blessings which He offers to us are righteousness, grace, health, and prosperity of every kind. The question we are to settle is whether we will accept these gifts of God, or take our chances with the weapons of sin; whether we will make a choice for eternal life with God, or go to the Pit to spend eternity, where we will call for a drop of water of cooling water.

Beloved, it is a weighty question and worthy of due consideration. May God help us to settle it to go His way and go through with Him.

The third class of people received the Word of God just as gladly as the second class, but they did not follow up that Word of God, they did not make one particle of progress, they did not see the importance of seeking first the kingdom of God and its righteousness. All they were concerned about was what they would eat and drink and what would be pleasing to them. It is written that the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches choked the Word of God, and it became unfruitful.

The fourth class sat down and gave the Word of God careful consideration; they weighed the evidence on both sides. They weighed the Word of God and on the other side, the flesh, the world, and the devil. They were called upon to present a verdict; and they presented a verdict that God was right, God was true, and the only safe thing to do was to go God's way. They accepted His

Word and went through with Him and brought forth with abundance, some thirty, some sixty, and some a hundredfold.

This same thought is brought out in Hebrews, how we should value these truths concerning our trials and tribulations. Sometimes people think they are called upon to go through some pretty hard places, and they ask: "I wonder why it is?"

"Beloved, it is just the remedy they need. God does not allow us to have a featherweight more of trouble than we absolutely need to perfect our Christian characters. He knows just the lesson we need, and He is a perfect Teacher. There is no Teacher like Him; and He knows just the lesson we need to learn, just the "Marah" we need to meet. He shows us in this Word of God how we should value these trials and temptations.

*"My Son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord"* —Do not regard it lightly, do not pass over them as if they were of no account, but consider them of the most valuable and important stepping-stones which have to do with our welfare for time and eternity — *"nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him."* (Hebrews 12:5)

We usually have a little plan of our own, a plan all fixed up; it is all sugar coated; it was sugar on the outside but proved very bitter inside.

When things turn differently than we expected, in Christian life, we say: "Oh my, my, I never thought I would have to meet this!" Well, beloved, it is just the sweetest and best thing which could happen to you.

Satan's pills are all sugar coated, sweet on the outside but very bitter on the inside, but God's—the trials and temptations He allows us to pass through—are sweet all the way through, although they do not appear so at first. Satan's are bitter all the way through; after we get on the inside, we discover they are only sugar coated.

As said before, we have this plan of our own and when that is upset and things begin to go wrong—as we think—we faint. From this Scripture we learn that we are not to faint, when the bottom drops out of our plans. When we get a jolt to some little plan of our own, or something goes awry, we are not to FAINT.

*"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"* (Hebrews 12:5-7) This means the trials, temptations and attacks of Satan—the bitter places we come to sometimes—which are mostly in the beginning Christian lives.

