

MARAH PART TWO

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Hebrews 12:14: "Follow peace with all men." Meet them in love whatever they say or do, no matter what kind of a dagger they put into you; no matter how it affects your heart strings.

"And holiness," --that meeting of trials, that going through "Marah" without getting discouraged and disheartened and giving up.

This is the same thought that we have in James 1:12--- "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation;" that holds steady and goes through "Marah" right. "Blessed is the person who goes through temptation, tribulation, trial, and difficulties successfully."

We can easily express ourselves in this way without doing any violence to the text. "For when he has stood every test," is the original meaning of "For when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him." James 1:12

This does not mean, however, that the person who does not stand the test right is going to Hell immediately; but, we must come to the place where we will learn to meet these tests right.

"For when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life," --- Just think how important these things are; eternal life hinges on meeting our tests in God's way.

"Which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him." This means those who have PUT HIM FIRST. Then the Holy Spirit is enabled to shed abroad the love of God into their hearts.

Now we will turn to this little story in the 14th & 15th chapters of Exodus, from which we can receive some light. The children of Israel had gone over the Red Sea and had had a wonderful deliverance because the blood of the little lamb was on the door, and a dog could not as much as move his tongue against men or beast.

They received perfect health, as they acted out their faith, for they were told to eat the Passover with their loins girded, their shoes on their feet, and their staff in their hand and to eat it in haste.

As they obeyed that command and took the step of faith, they were granted perfect health.

“He brought them forth also with silver and gold; and there was not one feeble person among their tribes.” (Psalm 105:37)

We are told that these Israelites and the happenings of these Hebrews are pictures of ourselves; they reveal our condition and experience, which we are called upon to go through, and they were written for our admonition and education, enlightenment and encouragement, for our grace and wisdom.

“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.” (1 Corinthians 10:11)

They had been trapped by the Egyptians at the Red Sea. Pharaoh had changed his mind about letting them go--after he had thrust them out--and came after them and encamped by the sea.

There were no boats to hire, and the sea was too deep to wade

across, and they thought they were going to be killed in the end; hence, they said: “Were there not graves in Egypt, that we had to be brought out here to die?”

It seemed like such a bitter “Marah,” to think they had escaped from the Egyptians only to be trapped by them at this point.

They resorted to Moses, who told them to fear not, that the Egyptians whom they saw that day, they would see no more forever.

Exodus 14:19: “And the Angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them;

but it gave light by night to these; so that the one came not near the other all the night.”

Moses told them to stand still, hold their peace, and the Lord would fight for them. The Lord caused the sea to go back, by a strong wind, all that night, and made the sea dry land and the waters were divided. God took His people over that Red Sea by a real miracle; they went over on dry land, while the Egyptians, who started to follow them, were utterly destroyed. After this Moses sang a song of deliverance and triumph, and Miriam accompanied him.

“The Lord is my strength and song, and He is become my salvation; he is my God, and I will prepare Him a habitation; my father’s God. and I will exalt him. The Lord is a man of war: the Lord is his name.” (Exodus 15:2&3)

“Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.” Exodus 15:1

This was a wonderful note of praise. They were, no doubt, sure their troubles were over.

Then they started in search of water. They wanted a nice stream of cooling water to refresh them.

Beloved, they had journeyed in the heat of the sand and been deprived of water for three whole days and that is a worse condition than being deprived of food, as one can go without food for a longer period with less serious results than without water.

They started out to find it themselves. This little incident reveals all our troubles. We do all our own planning and try to get along without God.

Financially, we will sit down and figure out how much we need for rent, how much for the table, etc. Then we will look for a raise in salary. My, my, what a “Marah” it is! Beloved, we are traveling without God. That is the only way that “Marah can overtake us.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

(Proverbs 3:5&6)

As they realized the situation, they began to murmur against Moses, saying, “What shall drink?”

They did not need to want for water with such a God with them; neither was there any need to use any human efforts, as they were able to receive all they needed from His gracious hands.

Exodus 15:22 “So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.”

They had not as yet learned the lesson of depending on God; and asking Him for that water. They continued going on and waiting to find the water.

Exodus 15:23 “And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.”

Dear hearts, you can imagine what condition they were in after going- without water for three days, without one swallow of water, mothers with nursing babes, and other children continually crying for a drink of water. I suppose they were shedding enough tears to give

them a drink of water. Then when they finally found water, it was bitter. How would you like to have a million and a half people on your hands as Moses had?

Exodus 15:24 “And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?”

No doubt they said this with a vengeance. Will you please tell us what we will drink? I do not know what kind of gesticulations or gestures, they made, but I suppose they talked with their tongues, with their hands, with their feet and with fists, and all at once. They got in front of him saying: “Will you please tell us what we are going to drink?” How would you like to have been in Moses’ place? Beloved, Moses chose this position; he made a deliberate choice to take his place with the people of God.

Hebrews 11:24-26 “By faith Moses, when he was come to years refused, to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.”

Praise God for such a choice---it was truly a wise choice! It became more glorious every step of the way, and it proved to be a more exalted position than any of the kings of this world have ever occupied or ever can occupy.

Well, Moses did not have to wonder long what they would drink. He knew that God had a curse for every ill and a sweet change for every “Marah.” He went before God and laid the

whole case before Him. This should have been done at the very beginning by those people as a whole. Moses did not have to take time to think what they would do--he knew that they could go to God and receive just what they needed.

Beloved, when we come to a “Marah,” we may always rest assured that God has victory, He has sweetness for that place of bitterness. It is one of the most valuable lessons we can ever learn that we can go to God and lay our “Marah,” our troubles, trials, temptations before God alone. I care not what the difficulty may be, we have the glorious privilege of taking it before God.

Beloved, we will have to go to God in the end, so we might as well do so in the beginning.

The whole plan of every “Marah is to deliver us from the self-life,

from self-confidence, and self-effort, self-wisdom; and bring us to depend on God alone, where we will not depend on the wisdom of men but on the power of God.

No matter what bitterness comes into our lives, when we come to the place where our last human help is laid aside, our last human dependence, plan or wisdom, and we will enter into victory.

“And he cried unto the Lord;”---
These must have been days of faith for Moses. The people crying and complaining in his ears would be enough to make a person nervous; but he simply went and laid the matter before God.

Beloved, we must remember he had no Bible to meditate upon like we have, where he could be encouraged by the examples and experiences of others who

had gone through with God. However, he knew enough, to cry unto the Lord, knowing that he could and would change every “Marah.”

This is one grand and glorious thing about our salvation it can change the most bitter thing instantly and make it delightfully sweet; it can change trouble into peace, sickness into health, straighten out the most stubborn case; make the hardest, roughest thing pliable and easy; it will take the most bitter thing in your home and make it the sweetest; it will regulate the actions of the children, that husband, that wife, that father, that mother.

No matter how miserable Satan is trying to make our lives, this salvation will change it into one of the most glorious ones, so there will not be one cross look or word, or one hard feeling. If

we will lay these things before God, He will change the whole situation instantly.

How people worry about their physical condition. If we will place it into God's hands to remain there, and lay the whole case before Him, with our whole heart, He will change it at once. He is just waiting to do it in such an easy, delightful way. He is able to cause even the desert to bloom and blossom as the rose.

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose." (Isaiah 35: 1&2)

Just meditate upon that for a moment, God always has a deliverance right at hand; in our darkest hour, In our deepest trouble, in our hardest tests--as we would call them--God is right there. That is the kind of a God

we have; that is the grand and glorious salvation that we have. This always follows "Marah."

Then God gave them a prescription which would bring perfect health and protection throughout their entire life. This is the first blessing which came as the result of their meeting that "Marah" as God would have them.

Exodus 15:26 "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right In his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee," ...

Well, that was worth something. They received God as their everlasting Physician; received His services free of charge; had Him hired by the year, throughout their entire life.

It did not cost them one penny to have the services of this wonderful Physician. They did not have to take one bitter pill, did not have to use any type of medication. They only had to receive the Word that they were well.

It was worth going without water for three days in order to receive this wonderful gift, and to have their self-life and dependence exposed, was it not? It was worth having their ignorance and unbelief exposed in order to receive the demonstration of what kind of a God they had. It was worth something to receive a guarantee of perfect health for life.

Exodus 15:26 “I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord that healeth thee.”

What a promise of significance this is!

Exodus 15:27 “And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water. and three-score and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters,”

Beloved, there is an “Elim with twelve wells of water and three-score and ten palm trees” at the end of every one of our “Marahs.”

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