

OK crest

Exodus 15:22-27

The ups and downs of the Gospel

- ① Cont. in church
- ② Galaxies +
- ③ Retirement -

(Reading is just after the people (passed through the Red Sea) and they wre havint a prasiie the Lord service. *But in reality we know life is not always mt. peaks - Here are Valleys*

there was a popular song entitled 'Baby the Rain must fall' and it literally depits 20th century life. ^{① 1000 minister gave up the ministry in a yrs time} Whether it be the high school student who has just lost that all important school election; ^② or the widow dressed in black who stands and sarvurys the loneliness and desolation of a once happy and cheeful home, ^③ or a sorrowing family who weeps silently over a tiney white casket ^④ that contains the lifeless object of all of there hompes dreams and affections of the broken human heart ready to end life ^⑤ because of some demorilized borken dream, who ecer you are I must remind you that in every life a little rain must and will fall but I call you to remember that God never promised (exemption) from trouble, he rather *ofers* promised (victory) in it.....so

Kim this meeting let us examine ~~how we are going to handle~~ the ups and downs of life. ~~Relationships~~

First of all lets look at some ways we can handle discorment and there is probably no greater Biblical charater than Moses. He lived and died in discorment But never once ^{did he} ~~he~~ ^{his} back on God. (You know most of us talk abt Israel spending 40 yrs in the desert wandering from place to place, (yet) Moses spent 80yrs. wandering, ^(A) 40 yrs with a bunch of stupid sheep and ^(B) 40 yrs with a buch of backslide baptist and then died in discourgment for he was not allowed entrance into the Land of Promise.)

Now, during his 40yrs of wandering one of Moses Greates experience was at this place called Mari. ^{notice the scriptures 22+23} They were in the widlerness ^{3 days} (without any water) and in Maria the water was not suitable for interanl useage because it was bitter. ^① moses found out that ^{some} of the greatest success in life are oten accompied by failures ~~great success stories in life are oten followed by failures.~~ (Listen our text deals in failure) but if you will read the beginning of chp. 15 you will notice

God ~~lead~~ ^{lead} the people through (the Red Sea) and then he closed the walls of water on the Egyptians army. The scene in this chp. is a great victory celebration because God had prevailed against Pharoah's army. ~~The people~~ ^{The people} had just experienced one of the greatest success stories of thir lives and immediately after that great experience the Bible says ^{READ} Moses lead the people to Maria where the water was too bitter to drink (and the bpeople began to mummer.)

(Why) you would think that a perple who had learned to praise God in the first part of Chp. 15 would ~~ever~~ ^{ever} be found mummering ~~as~~ ^{gumbling} ~~in the first part~~ ~~of the chp~~ ~~that~~ ~~there is a change that we begin with praise and close with~~ ~~with pouding when things don't go just the way we would like them to go.~~

Think abt elizh standing tall and erect on Mb. Carmel, he brought down fire from heaven to vindicate God and demonstrated God was God that day, but rite after that dramatic scene ~~we~~ find Elizh runing runing to hide out and drawing in his own self piety wishing he were dead.

Some things was true when the Isrealites went into the battle with Joshua. They conqured the heaviest fortified city in Canaana and after all if you can conque jericoh so easily that figured they could handle anything else that might get in theri way. Well the next spot on the map was a small town called ai, and man if we can take jerico no use getting all excited abt. ai we dont even need to get all the tribes together to fight this battle. But you know the sotry. they sent their men agansit a small insignificat town and was routed and the greatest sucess of their lives the destruction of jerico was followed by failure. I really beieve the devil getts more christians frustrated and disgruntled over the small battles of live. ~~as for the ai's~~ for its not the jerichos that give us the most trouble its the ai's. we have enough senbe to know we cant handle the Jericho in our lives, but after all the ais are small insignificat discussions that we make ever day and we dont need any special preparation ss for those, do we...

Listen the greatest success of ~~your~~ ^{your} life just might be followed by an ai and we need to be ready.

Scripture
↓ 23

The scripture says and they came to (Maria) where the water was bitter. **Now**

as we look at life and understand it we know life isn't fair at all. ¹ Too many times life is cruel and ruthless mingled with both the sweet and bitter waters of life. (Pick up your newspaper and you will find the bitterness of life embedded in (discouragement) and (deprivity) in society.) ² But then look also in the church pew and you will discover the ails have taken their toll among christian people. **We get** into a situation that at one time was nourishing and sweet to the taste and then something happens and we can't stomach it.... It becomes bitter

Water which was at one time cool and refreshing and sweet suddenly became bitter and repulsive. ¹ It ~~maybe~~ a broken marriage, ² a rebellious son, ³ a depleted christian, ⁴ a bad church experience ~~and they will come and~~ what I'm saying is that God will often lead us to the waters of Maria just after a great experience. ¹ ~~why? the bible says it was there that God proved them....~~ You will not find those words at the Red sea experience. ^{14 25} **Read** Its ~~was~~ not the times of success that really test our fiber and courage. The only one that was proved at the Red sea was God's faithfulness. ~~(Barnes' X potter's wheel)~~ Its at maria that we become involved in the testing periods of life.

~~Somebody said that the miracles of God can't produce faith.~~ and I began to think about that statement and the more I did the more I realize its true. **Miracles** don't produce the greatest faith in the lives of individuals. ¹ God performed all types of miracles in Egypt and still the people lacked faith. ³ Jesus demonstrated the power of God with his power to heal and transform lives and still the people rejected him. ³ God is still working his transforming therapeutic cleansing power in the 20th century and there are still people who reject him. **Miracles** just don't produce great faith

~~faith is produced at the maria experience and all in our lives... because its there we must (trust in) God. ^{my experience} ~~there we must all upon his name and remember failures can be a time of (testing) and a (beautiful) growing experience in the Lord. Even after tremendous religious experiences such as revivals and christian growth be aware~~~~

of the marias in life, for those circumstances can be use as instructors if we are willing to learn.

Many of the greatest lessons in life can be learned while in the valley of the shadows. (No one can truly know God intimately until trouble comes.)

The bible says Mans days are few and full of trouble its coming its apart of life but it can be a source of opportunity for xain growth and development. *It's*

not what life does too you, its what you do to life that MATTER the difference

But far too many people take things that happen in church related wrk too personally and they get all puffed up and its all due to the fact that we think were very important. You know the sun has to set on us or god cant stand the day off.

But the most essential thing to do abt this situation is to simply take it to the Lord... Notice in verse 25 Moses cried unto the Lord.. Now there are

thoes that simply complain, others remain but there are thoes that cry unto the Lord for guidance. *as*

Moses cried unto the Lord and look what hapened. (red scripture) Moses came to the lord and then God showed him a tree and when moses put that tree into the water the waters were made sweet... *Bitter ex.*

listen I know some of your are going to be in olved in some bitter experience but our pattern is to cry unto the Lord and some how some way God will make that

bitter experience w sweet. *A feed* Now please notice God didnt have to creatue a tree the tree was all ready there. *+* out of the situation moses was able to see a better

way and many times God is dealing with us and through (bitter experience) when we cry unto the Lord we are made to see more clearly (sweeter experience) in life.

I walked a mile with laughter
and she chatted all the way
but i was never the wiser with what laughter had to say

I walked a mile with sorrow
and she never said a word, but Oh, my the things that I learned!

When we as Gods people get into a habit of crying unto the lord we will find that some of the sweetest experiences of life will be at Maria.

Then finally look with me very quickly in closeing at the results of crying unto the Lord found in verse 27

Then they came to elam were there were 12 wells of water thats one for each tribe and 70 palms one for every elder and they encamped there.. at one moment

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②

they had no water then they arrived at maria where the water was bitter but notice they didnt stay at maria they left and ^③arrried (in Elam) where there was an abudance of water. Dbe you know how far elea is fsrom Maria.... 5 miles **Just 5 miles**

Here they are at Maria in (despear) and (defeated) and just 5 miles down the road are 12 wells of water. Oh, man xian people need to understand that trouble is

going to come but dont hang it all up for just 5 miles down the road is Elam..... Give up - Turn from God - or Draw near to God

[

Jesus DID give up -

How sadd it would be if when we meet jesus christi and he details our accom- plishments but says you stopped you gave up...you deserted the wrk just 5 miles

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from fullness... Listen christian brother sister when these experience come dont give up on God find eleam it may be jsut 5 miles down the road

for if you remain in your present condition you will dry up spritually.

So lthe anwere to these problems isnt simple but the solution is found in our willingness to keep on praying, worshipping, obeying, singin, titheing and witnessing. God didnt bring elam to Isreal they went to it...

①

today

toning

②

If your beazr ^{today}toning and that love for God isnt as strong as it once was you need to find elam this ^{toning}evening. Ther are some xans that just came on sunday moring and I belive if a mans rally tristy he is going to get as close to the water faount ian as possible dont you... What if those same individuals deciede to be as faith ful to theri secular jobs as they are to the chruch...

Philiphia 3:10

That I may know him → and the power of his resurrection and may fellowship in his sufferings by becoming conformed to his death -