

# In the Wilderness

## Can God Be Trusted with our Daily Needs?

Exodus 15:22-16:36

*Going through the wilderness was not necessary for Israel's salvation, but it was necessary for their sanctification. —Philip Ryken*

## The Story of Marah

Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. <sup>23</sup> When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (Exodus 15:22-23a)

**GRUMBLING AGAINST:** So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What are we to drink?” (Exodus 15:24)

- Grumbling is directed “against” someone.
- Grumbling is verbal expression of an internal rebellion.
- Grumbling is often a sinful response to hardship.
- Grumbling is ultimately directed toward God.

**CRYING OUT:** Then Moses cried out to the LORD.... (Exodus 15:25a)

*Throw at him your grief, your anger, your doubt, your bitterness, your betrayal, your disappointment—he can absorb them all. As often as not, spiritual giants of the Bible are shown contending with God. They prefer to go away limping, like Jacob, rather than to shut God out.*

(Philip Yancy)

## The Story of Manna

In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. <sup>3</sup> The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the LORD’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.” <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. (Exodus 16:2-4)

*“While God may test or prove his servants in order to strengthen their faith, he never seeks to induce sin and destroy their faith” (Douglas Moo)*

## The Story of Christ

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:1–4)

