

Sermon ~ Sunday, October 9, 2022, by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: Exodus 16: 1-8

Title: "Who Wouldn't Serve A GOD Like This?"

In her latter years, these were the constant words of our Mother... "Who Wouldn't Serve A GOD Like This?" She no doubt experienced, bowing (surrendering) before HIM; *worshipping* and *adorning* HIM; *serving* HIM with *gratitude* of *heart*, *mind*, *soul*, and *spirit*. She discovered, HE holds the winds in HIS hand; HE'S The Great I AM; HE'S The Bright and Morning Star and without HIM she would fall. "Who Wouldn't Serve A GOD Like This?"

There are *unsearchable riches* in this 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of Exodus because it is so full of JESUS CHRIST!

--HE is "The MANNA," "The Bread from Heaven;" "The Bread of Life," that John the Apostle preached about in John 6: 35, "And JESUS said unto them, I AM the bread of life: he that cometh to ME shall never hunger; and he that believeth on ME shall never thirst."

"The MANNA," JESUS CHRIST is The Great Gift. "...for they knew not what it was..." reads, Exodus 16: 15. HE (GOD in JESUS) is life's great mystery. "But like the wind, that bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of The SPIRIT." (John 3: 8) You'll know it!

We did not read, "O criticize and see," but "O taste and see that The LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in HIM." (Psalm 34: 8)

--HE meets us (*met me*) where we are (*were*). "In the wilderness of Sin." (v. 1)

Our *natures* are *full* of "sin," born "sinners," "while we were yet sinners, CHRIST died for us." (Romans 5: 8) Sin always leads into a *wilderness*; the *wilderness* brings a *wretchedness* and *misery* out of which "The LOVE of GOD," alone can deliver.

--Exodus 16 points out "the purpose" for The Gift of MANNA, JESUS CHRIST.

"...ye shall be *filled* with bread and ye shall know that I AM The LORD your GOD..." said verse 12. The MANNA came to "save" them (us) from death and to "satisfy" them (us) to the full. HE brought to them (you and I) "a full salvation!"

"I'll *rain* down bread from Heaven for you..." "...and the people shall go out and gather..."

reads verse 4. Amazing GRACE how sweet the sound... "*rain*," bread upon murmurers!

Why not "*rain*" fire and brimstone? "Twas GRACE that taught my heart to fear..."

"...an omer for every man..." said verse 16. Like the miracle of JESUS feeding the 5,000 men beside woman and children. "...they all were filled," (Matthew 14: 20). So, it is, when JESUS is resurrected in the heart of every believer, The Atonement of CHRIST, is like the "fragments that remain, (twelve baskets full), no *take* but The TRUTH to *Tell!*

"I'm satisfied with JESUS, HE'S done so much for me:  
HE has suffered to *redeem* me; HE has died to *make* me free.  
HE is with me in my trials, Best of friends is HE'  
I can always count on JESUS, can HE always count on me?

"Who Wouldn't Serve A GOD Like This?"

Why do we murmur [some *loudly*, others *lowly*, in *low tones*, *criticize*, *grumble* about the actions of *others* and **GOD**] the text, v. 7, “for that **HE** heareth your murmuring against **The LORD...**” V. 8, “for that **The LORD** heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against **HIM**: and what are we? Your murmurings are not against us, but against **The LORD.**”

Vs. 2, “the whole host of Israel...” *counted upon* (they concluded) they would die in the wilderness at the first appearance of disaster. [it argues, “great *distrust* in **GOD**—to talk of *nothing* but being speedily killed. They ‘*invidiously*,’ (with *discrimination*, *hate*, *jealousy*) *charged* Moses and Aaron with a *design* to *starve* them, when they lead them from Egypt.

They went so far as to “undervalue” their deliverance, that they wish they had died in Egypt by the flesh pots: an exaggerated (lie) claiming, that they *relaxed* and had more than enough ... rather than live under The Guidance of The Heavenly Pillar of Cloud by Day and Cloud of Fire by Night in the wilderness and be *provided for* by **The HAND of GOD**. [When they left Egypt, they left with “...flocks and herds, even very much cattle.” (Exodus 12: 38)]

But discontent, magnifies, what is past; vilifies what is present, without regard to TRUTH and reason!

Why do we murmur and complain against **GOD**?

**GOD** made known to Moses, **HIS** *gracious* intention. V. 4d, “...that I may prove them, whether they will walk in **MY law**, or no.” (**GOD’S design**, not Moses!) *Whether* they would *trust HIM*; *whether* they would walk by **Faith** and not by sight, *whether* they would rest *satisfied* with bread, *Day by Day*, depending upon **GOD** for fresh supplies tomorrow. *Whether* they would serve **HIM** and be **FAITHful** to **HIM**!

Why do we murmur and complain against **GOD**?

1. Failure in True Worship of GOD. Exodus 7: 16, “And thou shalt say unto him (Pharaoh), **The LORD GOD** of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee, saying, Let my people go, that they may serve (worship) **ME** in the wilderness...” [True Worship, **JESUS** said, first is, “to Worship GOD in SPIRIT and TRUTH.” (John 4: 24) That’s more than *singing choirs* and *long prayers* and *half-hearted giving*... Real Worship of GOD involves believing **The BIBLE as WHO GOD is** and obeying HIM. Its presenting your whole being as “a living sacrifice.”

True Worship is wonderment. You are *awestruck* by **GOD’S Majesty, Holiness, and Power**.

True Worship is transformative. It makes you *cry*, “Woe is me; I’m undone... O wretched man that I am...”

True Worship is renewing... “**The JOY of GOD’S Salvation** is restored every time we **Worship HIM**!

True Worship is ‘decentering,’ removing or displacing yourself for **HIMSELF**.

“**HE** must increase and we must decrease!” (John 3: 30)

2. Failure to Pray to GOD and hear GOD in our praying. “Someone recently said to me, “I was so worried and afraid to tell you... but I had too! My response was, “If you are going to *pray*, don’t worry. But if you are going to worry, don’t *pray*. [When **GOD** *plagued* the Egyptians, it was to make them know that **HE** was **The LORD**, that **HE** was Israel’s **GOD**!]

3. ‘Never’ Content. [comfortable, grateful, happily blessed, pleased]

“O, fear The LORD, ye **HIS** saints: for there is no want to them that fear HIM.” (Psalm 34: 9)

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