

Up From Slavery

A man / A people / A plan

FACING FREEDOM:
KNOWING IF YOU
REALLY LOVE GOD
EXODUS 15:22-27

An Unsettling Reality

²² 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. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah).

^{25b} There the LORD made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them.

Exodus 15

An Unsettling Reality

Necessary differentiation

The objective of a TEST: revelation.

The objective of TEMPTATION: to draw one away from God, failure.

An Unsettling Reality

⁷ During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered

Hebrews 5

¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 1 Peter 5

Cultural Liturgies

— because they are heart-shaping rituals that actually shape what we love. So what I'm trying to do is to help people see that these cultural liturgies aren't just something that you do; they do something *to* you.

James K A Smith

Testing is a normal part of everyone's spiritual life

What Testing Revealed

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Exodus 15

What Testing Revealed

1. Parise, though rousing and energetic, can be hollow.
2. Testing exposes our true belief system
 - a. Israel – grumble
 - b. Moses – intercession
3. Every test offers a choice

A Divine Provision

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²⁵ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.

Exodus 15

Conditional Blessing

There the LORD made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them. ²⁶ He said, “If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.”

The Challenge

There the LORD made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them. ²⁶ He said, “If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees,

IF:

1. Listen carefully
2. Learn from what you hear
3. You respond with humility and obedience
4. A question that we want answered

What happened to grace?

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

¹⁰ Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:5–11

God's Promise

I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.”

²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.

The Significance of our Choices

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2

To Go . . .

- What benefits are associated with the gospel of grace?
- What expectations accompany those benefits?
- What keeps you from eagerly embracing those expectations?