

# Up From Slavery

A man / A people / A plan

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FACING FREEDOM:  
LESSONS IN DEPENDENT LIVING  
EXODUS 16:1-18

## Exodus 16

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The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.”

<sup>6</sup> So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, <sup>7</sup> and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?” <sup>8</sup> Moses also said, “You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD.”

<sup>9</sup> Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’ ”

<sup>10</sup> While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>12</sup> “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’ ”

<sup>13</sup> That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. <sup>14</sup> When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. <sup>15</sup> When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, “It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. <sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Each one is to gather as much as he needs. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.’ ”

<sup>17</sup> The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. <sup>18</sup> And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little. Each one gathered as much as he needed.

## Lessons to consider

- An interesting insight
  - God's desires and our "natural" inclinations are often diametrically opposed to one another.
  - We want security, on our terms, and God desires our total dependence.

# Unsettling realities

## 1. God desires our habitual dependence

God provides enough to the day but not enough to dispel dependence.

## 2. The failure to realize that our complaints against men are often accusations against God's wisdom and sovereignty.

Complaining can easily become a consumptive behavior that offers the illusion of doing "something" while actually doing nothing and all the while spoiling our enjoyment of everything.

# Reasons for Confident Dependence

1. God is patient
2. God is able
3. God is in control
4. God's glory guarantees his promise

The glory of God is often revealed where least expected, in the holy that has become commonplace.

## To Go . . .

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- Why is it difficult for us to realize how dependent we are?
- How is the pursuit of independence working out for you?
- What obscures the glory of God in our lives?