

Up From Slavery

A man / A people / A plan

FACING FREEDOM:
THE CHOICE: TEST OR TRUST
EXODUS 17:1-7

Exodus 17

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² So they quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”

Moses replied, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?”

³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?”

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

⁵ The LORD answered Moses, “Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

THE CHOICES

1. To test God?

- The only difference between an optimist and a pessimist is that the optimist lacks sufficient information.
- The events of life are so close and powerful that we allow them to eclipse the power of God. This is often the case when our knowledge of God is primarily a head knowledge and not a heart knowledge.
- We can't be too critical of the Israelites because we are often so much like them.

THE CHOICES

1. To test God?

¹³ The Lord says:

“These people come near to me with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

Their worship of me
is made up only of rules taught by men.

Isaiah 29:13

THE CHOICE

1. To test God?

Testing springs forth from:

a heart that is filled with doubt

and insists that God must respond according to the creatures perceived desires.

THE CHOICES

2. Or to trust God

- Remember:
you tend to see what you look for.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:4–9

7 He will have no fear of bad news;
his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

8 His heart is secure, he will have no fear;
in the end he will look in triumph on his foes.

Psalm 112:7–8

THE CHOICE

2. Or to trust God

Trust is predicated on

1. an awareness of Gods character

We pray for wisdom, Your voice to hear
And we cry in anger when we cannot feel You near
We doubt Your goodness, we doubt Your love
As if every promise from Your Word is not enough

All the while, You hear each desperate plea
And long that we'd have faith to believe

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights
Are what it takes to know You're near

And what if trials of this life
Are Your mercies in disguise

Laura Story, Blessings

THE CHOICE

2. Or to trust God

Trust is predicated on

1. an awareness of Gods character
2. a confidence that as God has acted in the past he will continue to act in the future

To Go . . .

When hardship comes what do you see, problems or opportunities?

What do you fix your mind on?

How do we allow the enemy to rob us of the joy of our salvation?