

## MURMURING, EXODUS 16

Let us go to Exodus, the sixteenth chapter, and verses one and two, for our thoughts for the day.

And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt. And the *whole* congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger (Exodus 16:1-3).

We see how Israel on this occasion murmured on this occasion. They really were not even hungry yet, yet they murmured because they could not see the way out. They could not see the source of supply, rather than wait and say, “Moses, would you go and pray and ask God how He is going to meet our need or what we should do about our need?” They did not give their leader, Moses, this courtesy, muchless, God their Eternal Captain and Leader Who had already visibly in so many ways proven that His Power was sufficient to meet any need, to do any kind of miracle to get them to the place that He had appointed, namely, Canaan’s Land.

God had already done miracles in opening the Red Sea. He had done miracles before they ever got to the Red Sea because He had manifested Himself in Egypt in His great Power. He had brought them out with a mighty hand, He says over and over in the Word of God. He had given them the supernatural Cloud and Fire to lead them day and night or they would never, ever been able to get out of the land of Egypt. He had done a miracle and opened the Red Sea. He had done a miracle and had given them many things already. He had given them the sweet water in place of bitter water. So here they are complaining because they are hungry, and they would rather have stayed in Egypt in their same spiritual condition, their same spiritual stature than to

suffer a little bit to go through the wilderness to get to Canaan's Land, their special inheritance that had been given to them by God. They would rather have stayed on the pleasure side of the scales than have endured a little pain that they might grow bigger and greater in God and have greater experiences with God. So, beloved, they complained because they were hungry. Hunger means a painful situation caused by want of food, any strong or violent desire, an eager longing, a hunger, a desire for things like riches or anything else in the world. So there are two classes of hunger: outward physical hunger and mental hungers, hunger of the soul and hunger of the spirit. So they complained on this occasion because they thought the worst again that Moses had brought them out just to kill them, to destroy them. They thought God had brought them out just to destroy them. So they murmured over and over again.

And it says in verse seven:

And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what are we, that ye murmur against us? And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; 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. And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the LORD: for he hath heard your murmurings. And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God. And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host. And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat (Exodus 17:7-15).

So, beloved, in spite again of their murmurings provided and gave them bread to eat. He met their need. How often times have we experienced the same thing in our lives though we have murmured and though we have falsely accused and though we have been unbelieving in our spirit

and in our attitude. How merciful God has been to go on and provide for His creation anyway.

How many times have we murmured and thought, “Oh, I just dread to see another day. Wish I could just sort of lay down and forget it all”? Yet God in His Mercy continued to give us life, continued to give us strength to earn bread, continued to give us an appetite to eat that bread. So how merciful God was to provide for them in their hunger, although they complained before they had the bread, then they complained after they had their bread.

I have been in countries where that I have seen such gross poverty and such suffering that it just breaks my heart to see the ingratitude in my own country. We are just so ungrateful in our country, beloved, both naturally and spiritually. Here we are in a land that is free. How would you like to be in a communistic country and not have the privilege to have your Bible open and eat of the Bread of Life? Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life. If anyone eat of Me, he shall live forever.”

So what a privilege. We do not have to be thirsty. We do not have to be hungry in our country, either physically or spiritually because we are a country of plenty. And I do not believe there is anyone that would not give someone else something to eat if they knew they were hungry. So we need gratitude in our lives today because of God’s great blessing upon us. Let us be grateful in the midst of such plenty, both naturally and spiritually. So God gave them the corn of heaven. He gave them visible bread that represented the Bread of His Son the LORD Jesus Christ.

But you can see, beloved, when you have a murmuring spirit, if you murmur before, you are going to be murmuring after. So our problem is not whether we have or have not, our problem is to deal then with the murmuring. And if we deal with the murmuring, then when God does bless us and give, we will be grateful. Let us pray.

Father, we thank You for the Bread of Life even the LORD Jesus Christ Who loved us and gave Himself for us. And we thank You for the Life that is in that Bread, we thank

You for the life that is in Your Word. Father, we pray today that You would move and sanctify and remove mumbling and grumbling and murmuring from our hearts and place within us the gratitude, the Grace of the LORD Jesus Christ because we pray in His Precious Name. Amen. ☐