

**God's People Encounter Both Bitterness And Sweetness!
Grit Before Greatness! Pt. 3**

Exodus 15:22-27

March 6, 2016

Exodus 3:7, *The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of My people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey..."*

Four Thoughts For God's People And Bitter Life Experiences:

1) God's People Sang A Song Of CELEBRATION

Exodus 15:1, *Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: "I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted. Both horse and driver He has hurled into the sea."² "The Lord is my strength and my defense; He has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise Him...and I will exalt Him."*

2) God's People Encounter Bitter WATERS

Exodus 15:22, *Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness and found no water.²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; therefore it was named Marah.²⁴ So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"*

Ruth 1:19, *... And when they had come to Bethlehem, ...the women said, "Is this Naomi?"²⁰ She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me."*

3) God Brings Both Sweetness And EXPECTATIONS

Exodus 15:25, *Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree; and he threw it into the waters, and the waters became sweet. There He made for them a statute and regulation...²⁶ And He said, "If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments... I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer."*

4) God's Faithful Followers Always End Up REFRESHED

Exodus 15:27, *Then they came to Elim where there were twelve springs of water and seventy date palms, and they camped there beside the waters.*

What Should We Do When Life Turns Bitter?

- Remember Your Past VICTORIES
- Keep Your Present Circumstances In PERSPECTIVE
Romans 8:28, *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.*
- Don't Linger At BITTER WATERS
Hebrews 12:15, *See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.*
Ephesians 4:31, *Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.*
- Your Oasis Is Just Around The CORNER
Proverbs 14:10, *Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy.*
Jeremiah 29:11, *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm*

you, plans to give you hope and a future... ¹³You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.

Next Steps: Be thinking and praying now about who you can bring to church with you on Easter weekend! A friend, neighbor, workmate, etc.