

Exodus 16: 2-15 September 24, 2023 CCC  
“...Gather as much of it as each one needs...” Ex. 16:18b”

“May each person present this morning gather what they need today. Amen.”

- I. In the wilderness God provides manna from heaven for forty years. Ex.16:35  
Relationships among historical documents, archeological research, geography, climate data, information about flora and fauna, and so forth, and faith.
  - A. Population data. Number who left Egypt, Number who wandered wilderness, number who entered Canaan forty years later.
  - B. Resources of plants and animals of desert. Livestock brought from Egypt. Intersection with trade routes through desert.
  - C. “What is it?” “*man hu*” Looks like: Coriander seeds. Tastes like: Baked goods made with honey. What was it really? (Current theories are off-putting.)
  - D. The eyes of faith. God’s provision when we cannot provide for ourselves. The history of interpretation within the Jewish and Christian communities.
  
- II. The Spiritual Discipline of Complaining/Disappointment/Grief/Anger
  - A. Do it properly. Let it play out. Wrestle with God. (God complains about Israel.)
  - B. What exactly are you complaining about? Be very specific.
  - C. What you are feeling? Emotions are a powerful gift from God.
  - D. What is it you desire? Where do you think is the source of what you desire? Who are you in dialogue with? Lovers’ quarrel.
  - E. Have you settled with God whether you are worthy of God’s blessing?
  - F. What would you need to give up in order to have what you want?
  - G. Take as much time as you need. You’ll wonder why it took so long when you come out of it, but we are humans with limits and weaknesses.
  
- III. Murmuring is different. Exodus 16: 7,8,9,11  
Not a Spiritual Discipline. Resentment and Bitterness.  
Root of word for complaining in OT is related to pondering, conversing, praying.  
Root of word for murmuring in OT is related to stopping, staying, being obstinate.
  - A. Solitary pursuit. Not a relationship. God’s Word doesn’t reach the heart.
  - B. Highly contagious disease. Community is responsible for managing infection.  
“See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled.” Heb 12:15
  - C. Everyone who left Egypt died before they entered the Promised Land.