

Bittersweet

Exodus 15:22-27

We are *"sojourners and exiles"* (First Peter 2:11)

I. The context of the journey: _____

A. Difficulties

"They went three days in the wilderness without finding _____"

(Exodus 15:22b)

Their bitter thirst was compounded by bitter disappointment

B. Dangerous response: grumbling

1. Grumbling is a _____ problem

The bitterness in their _____ is worse than the bitterness in the water!

2. We live in a wonder-full yet fallen world

3. Grumbling reveals our lack of _____

"Your grumbling is not against us but against the Lord." (Exodus 16:8)

C. Testing

1. Bad side of testing: the people test the Lord

We put the Lord is on _____ when we grumble and complain

2. The Lord tests us for our _____

a. He shows us our sin

Difficult circumstances are divine _____

b. He shows us His goodness

Difficulties: severe mercies...divine wake up calls

D. Mercy

"I am the Lord, your _____" (Exodus 15:26b)

II. The Greatest Provision

Jesus was severely tested in the _____

Jesus was severely tempted in the _____

On the cross, Jesus drank the bitter cup to the dregs--the lethal _____ of our sin

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us— for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a _____'" (Galatians 3:13)

The cross—the instrument of death—is a tree of life!

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink." (John 7:37b)

III. Help for the Road

A. Get _____

B. Be thankful

C. Trust and obey

D. Wait - God's grace is around every corner

E. Rest