

HOW NOT TO WALK WITH GOD

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Much of the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread are built around the narrative of Israel's deliverance from Egypt.

They left with a high hand on the Night To Be Much Remembered. Free at last. On the way to the Promised Land — abundance and prosperity — the good life!

But ... there were perils in the way. As they walked into the wilderness they were tested. And completely failed.

And there are lessons for us!

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that **all** our fathers were under the cloud, **all** passed through the sea,

2 **all** were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

3 **all** ate the same spiritual food,

4 and **all** drank the same spiritual drink. **For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.** *(They were **all** heading off to the Promised Land from the land of Egypt)*

5 **But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.** *(Of all of the adults ... only 2 survived the journey and arrived in The Promised Land)*

6 **Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.** *(These are our examples ... so that we don't do what they did!)*

7 And **do not become idolaters as were some of them.** As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."

8 **Nor let us (believers) commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;**

9 **nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;** *(Us — believers?)*

10 **nor complain,** as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

11 **Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition**, (*instruction ... warning ... written down for you and me ... for our benefit as New Testament believers*) upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

12 **Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.** (*Check ourselves out*)

13 **No temptation (trial/test) has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.** (*God is faithful ... and He will make a way of escape for us*)

1 Corinthians 10:6 (Message)

6 The same thing could happen to us. **We must be on guard so that we never get caught up in wanting our own way as they did.**

Millions left ... only 2 survived to go into the Promised Land ... Joshua and Caleb.

And these are examples to us. No better time to review than during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

It was at Kadesh Barnea that they faced — and failed — their final test. It seems that they provoked God one time too often. Ten times.

So we'll review all ten occasions. It makes for a good story (☺) — but hopefully we can learn from their mistakes!

The First Test

Exodus 14:5-12

5 Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, **“Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?”**

6 So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him.

7 Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them.

8 **And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel;** and the children of Israel went out with boldness.

9 **So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army**, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon. *(Josephus says there were 600 chariots ... 50,000 horsemen ... and 200,000 foot soldiers)*

10 And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. **So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord.**

11 Then they said to Moses, **“Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt?”**

12 Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, “Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? **For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.**” *(Where is their faith? There is none! They are completely negative)*

In just a few days ... they doubt God’s Word — even though they had seen God working miracles in Egypt. FEAR had set in.

Walk by faith ... or by sight?

The World’s troubles can follow after us.

Exodus 14:13-16

13 And **Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.**

14 **The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.**” *(Do we believe this?)*

15 And the Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.

16 But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

God can make a way.

Exodus 14:21-31

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and **the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.**

22 **So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.**

23 And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

24 Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and **He troubled the army of the Egyptians.**

25 **And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians."**

26 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen."

27 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. **So the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.**

28 Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained.

29 But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

30 **So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.**

31 **Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.**

2. The Second Test

Exodus 15:22-26

22 **So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water.**

23 Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah.

24 **And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"** *(They murmured/grumbled/complained for any and every reason ... which means that they don't have their eyes on God)*

25 So he cried out to the Lord, and **the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet.**

There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them,

26 and said, **“If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you.”** (*Jehovah Rapha ... God your healer*)

They murmured. Don't you and I murmur!

They were still walking by sight. They don't "see" God! They had no peace of mind.

3. The Third Test

Exodus 16:1-3

1 And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt.

2 **Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.**

3 And the children of Israel said to them, **“Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”** (*All they are thinking about is their bellies! They are materially-minded. No appetite for discomfort. Still walking by sight ... and grumbling! Looking back to their old lifestyle*)

Exodus 16:4-5

4 **Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.**

5 **And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.”** (*the Solution: God provides (always) ... Jehovah Jireh*)

4. The Fourth Test

Exodus 16:16-20

16 This is the thing which the Lord has commanded: **'Let every man gather it (manna) according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.'** ”

17 Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less.

18 So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need.

19 And **Moses said, “Let no one leave any of it till morning.”**

20 **Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.**

Why disobey? Why keep the manna overnight? They distrusted God ... “you never know what God’s a gonna do”. They doubted God’s provisions.

5. The Fifth Test

Exodus 16:23-30 ... THE SABBATH DAY

23 Then he said to them, **“This is what the Lord has said: ‘Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. (Before Sinai, before the 10 commandments ... before the Old Covenant ... were given ... it's been there since Creation) Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.’”** (God is guaranteeing His sanctity of His Sabbath Day by sending twice as much manna the day before)

24 So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it.

25 Then Moses said, “Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in the field.

26 **Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none.”**

27 **Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none. (Some of them wanted to gather on the Sabbath. Just plain disobedience ... right under God’s nose!)**

28 And **the Lord said to Moses, “How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?**

29 See! For the Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. **Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.”**

30 **So the people rested on the seventh day.**

The lesson for us? Keep the Sabbath — Holy. It is easy to become casual.

6. The Sixth Test (only up to week 6!)

Exodus 17:1-7

1 Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped in Rephidim; **but there was no water for the people to drink.** (*You would have thought that they had learned their lessons by now*)

2 **Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink."**

So Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? **Why do you tempt the Lord?"**

3 And the people thirsted there for water, and **the people complained against Moses**, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

4 **So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!"**

5 And the Lord said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go.

6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and **you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.**"

And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. (*God can pretty much turn any situation around*)

7 So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because **they tempted the Lord**, saying, "**Is the Lord among us or not?"**" (*Massah means "Temptation". Meribah means "Contention/Provocation"*)

They definitely lean on their physical senses. They were slow learners.

The way of God is not always easy. Are we quick to grumble? Quick to blame?

7. The Seventh Test

Exodus 32:1-6

1 Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together against Aaron, and said to him,

“Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”

2 And Aaron said to them, “Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.”

3 So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron.

4 **And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf.**

Then they said, “This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!”

5 **So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it.** And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord.”

6 **Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.**

Exodus 32:6 (GNB)

6 ... **The people sat down to a feast, which turned into an orgy of drinking and sex.**

Exodus 32:7-14

7 And the LORD said to Moses, “Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves.

8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!’ ”

9 And the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people!

10 Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation.”

11 **Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said: “LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?”**

12 Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, ‘He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the

earth'? **Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people. (Moses intercedes — before God destroys them!)**

13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' ”

14 **So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.**

Exodus 32:19-28

19 So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. **So Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.**

20 **Then he took the calf which they had made, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder; and he scattered it on the water and made the children of Israel drink it.**

21 **And Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?”**

22 **So Aaron said, “Do not let the anger of my lord become hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil.**

23 For they said to me, ‘Make us gods that shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’

24 And I said to them, ‘Whoever has any gold, let them break it off.’ So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out.”

25 Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (**Naked**) (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies),

26 **then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, “Whoever is on the Lord's side—come to me!” And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.**

27 **And he said to them, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.’ ”**

28 **So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day.**

The people were impatient. What if God delays? (Remember: Abraham's poor excuse for Ishmael). We have to be patient.

How quick to turn to Idolatry (worshipping the true God ... probably ... but according to their way).

Aaron ... the man of God — caved in due to fear of the people.

8. The Eighth Test

Numbers 10:33

33 So they departed from the mountain of the Lord on a journey of three days; and the ark of the covenant of the Lord went before them for the three days' journey, to search out a resting place for them.

Only a 3-day journey!

Numbers 11:1-3

1 Now when the people complained, it displeased the Lord; for the Lord heard it, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the Lord burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp.

2 Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the Lord, the fire was quenched.

3 **So he called the name of the place Taberah, because the fire of the Lord had burned among them. (They probably hadn't focused on their destination ... forgot the vision ... God's Promised Land)**

Numbers 11:1 (AMP)

1 And the people grumbled and deplored their hardships, which was evil in the ears of the Lord ...

Numbers 11:1 (THE MESSAGE)

1 The people fell to grumbling over their hard life.

Nothing specific was mentioned. Was the journey too long? Was it too arduous? Too inconvenient?

We should know that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing to the glory to be revealed in us. No comparison between our light affliction ... which is but for a moment ... and our Promised Land.

Yet — we're prone to grumble. Is God asking too much of us? Can we endure unto the end?

9. The Ninth Test

Numbers 11:4-6

4 Now the mixed multitude (*ISV ... “The Riff Raff”. NIV ... “The Rabble” ... Tares?*) who were among them yielded to intense craving; **so the children of Israel also wept again and said: “Who will give us meat to eat? (Desires were “sort of” okay ... but ... the Rabble were “leaven” in their midst)**

5 **We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic;**

6 **but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!** (*God is providing the manna every day. Is there any hint of gratitude? Looking back at their slave lives with selective memories?*)

Numbers 11:10-15

10 **Then Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, everyone at the door of his tent; and the anger of the Lord was greatly aroused; Moses also was displeased.**

11 **So Moses said to the Lord, “Why have You afflicted Your servant? And why have I not found favour in Your sight, that You have laid the burden of all these people on me?”**

12 Did I conceive all these people? Did I beget them, that You should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a guardian carries a nursing child,’ to the land which You swore to their fathers?

13 Where am I to get meat to give to all these people? For they weep all over me, saying, ‘Give us meat, that we may eat.’

14 I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me.

15 **If You treat me like this, please kill me here and now—if I have found favour in Your sight—and do not let me see my wretchedness!** (*Moses was almost suicidal*)

Moses had had enough!

Numbers 11:18-23

18 **Then you shall say to the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the hearing of the Lord, saying, “Who will give us meat to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt.” Therefore the Lord will give you meat, and you shall eat.**

19 **You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days,**

20 but for a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have despised the Lord who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, "Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?"
, ”

21 And Moses said, “The people whom I am among are six hundred thousand men on foot; yet You have said, ‘I will give them meat, that they may eat for a whole month.’”

22 Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, to provide enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to provide enough for them?”

23 And the Lord said to Moses, “Has the Lord's arm been shortened? Now you shall see whether what I say will happen to you or not.”

Numbers 11:31-34 (NKJV)

31 Now a wind went out from the Lord, and it brought quail from the sea and left them fluttering near the camp, about a day's journey on this side and about a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground.

32 And the people stayed up all that day, all night, and all the next day, and gathered the quail (he who gathered least gathered ten homers); (a homer is a donkey load ... so the least they gathered was 10 donkey loads. They still had no trust ... but plenty of greed ... and presumably — no gratitude!) and they spread them out for themselves all around the camp.

33 But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the wrath of the Lord was aroused against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague.

34 So he called the name of that place Kibroth Hattaavah, (*graves of lust*) because there they buried the people who had yielded to craving.

The people listened to low-life associates ... bad company — yielded to the flesh. Many died!

10. The Tenth Test

Numbers 14:1-10

1 So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night.

2 And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!”

3 **Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"**

4 So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."

5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

6 **But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes;**

7 **and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land."**

8 **If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.'**

9 **Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them."**

10 **And all the congregation said to stone them with stones.** Now the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.

The people listened to the 10 evil spies. They were fearful. They had little trust in God. And — they were in total rebellion.

Moses interceded.

Numbers 14:17-35

17 "And now, I pray, let the power of my Lord be great, just as You have spoken, saying,

18 'The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.'

19 **"Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now."**

20 **Then the Lord said: "I have pardoned, according to your word;**

21 but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord—

22 **because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice,**

23 **they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.** *(Ten times ... but the line has been crossed)*

24 **But My servant Caleb,** because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, **I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.**

26 **And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,**

27 **“How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me.**

28 **Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you:**

29 **The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness,** all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above.

30 **Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in.**

31 But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised.

32 **But as for you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness.** *(All of them will die in the wilderness)*

33 And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness.

34 **According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection.**

35 **I the Lord have spoken this. I will surely do so to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.’ ”** *(They will all die in the wilderness — no Promised Land for them ... even though it was God’s will)*

God is very patient. But ... there is a line we dare not pass.

God took the people out of Egypt ... but couldn't get Egypt out of the people.

The lessons are for us. We’ve left spiritual Egypt ... on our way to the Promised Land.

The journey may seem a long one. There are a number of obstacles ... trials ... mishaps.

It is easy to grumble ... easy to lean on our own understanding ... not “see” God in the hard places.

Romans 15:4

4 For **whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.**

What is written there are written for our learning.