

**“Bread from Heaven”**  
**Bible Stories Sermon Series, Pt. 15 – Exodus 16:1-8**  
**November 25, 2018**

**I. The Way God’s People Often Respond to Trial**

A. Israel’s response to the trial in the dessert:

1. Israel was confronted with *potential* hunger (Ex. 12:38).
2. They accused the Lord of either being incompetent or wicked.
3. All of this took place despite their recently seeing countless wonders of God.

B. Our response to trials today:

1. At times, trials tempt us to wonder about the Lord’s wisdom or goodness.
2. This takes place even though we know far more about the Lord’s wisdom and goodness than the people of Israel ever did.

**II. Why the Lord Sends Trials**

*Deuteronomy 8:1–3* - <sup>1</sup> “All the commandments that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land which Yahweh swore to give to your forefathers. <sup>2</sup> “You shall remember all the way which Yahweh your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. <sup>3</sup> “He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh.

- A. The Lord allowed Israel to experience the fear of hunger, and their terrible reaction, in order to *humble* them.
- B. They were supposed to recognize their *spiritual* starvation.
- C. This was meant to show them that only the Lord could alleviate them
- D. Trials come into our lives today for often the same reasons:
  1. To show us how quick we are to become faithless and disloyal.
  2. To remind us to cry out to the Lord for forgiveness and for the strength to remain faithful in the midst of hardship.

**III. Jesus is the True Bread from Heaven**

*John 6:47–51* - <sup>47</sup> “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> “I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> “This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> “I am the living bread that came

*down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”*

**John 1:1, 14a** - <sup>1</sup> *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us...*

A. Jesus is the ultimate answer to our *spiritual* starvation.

1. As the Word of God, Christ's life, death and resurrection, brings us pardon.
2. *He* is the spiritual nourishment we continually need.

B. Growth in grace means abiding in the *words* of the Word of God, the true Bread from Heaven:

**John 15:5** - <sup>5</sup> *“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”*