

## **“IN SEARCH OF THE NEW NORMAL”**

**Exodus 15:22-27**

---

We hear the word “normal” quite often these days. Everyone is trying to discover what the “new normal” is going to be. The Israelites were also trying to figure out what their “new normal” would be after leaving Egypt. God had a new normal for them, but they would have to discover what it would be. We are also in search of our “new normal” that God is going to show us. There are many lessons we can learn about finding our “new normal” as we see how the Israelites discovered theirs.

---

### **#1. FINDING THE NEW NORMAL REQUIRES A JOURNEY, v. 22**

- A. Moses made them go into the desert
- B. God promised to take them to the Promise Land
- C. They had to prepare for their deliverance
- D. They plundered the Egyptians
- E. They were about 1.5 million people
- F. They arrived in Kadesh Barnea in 2 years

### **#2. FINDING THE NEW NORMAL REQUIRES GOING THROUGH THE DESERT, v. 22**

- A. The “desert” has theological meaning (Jesus is tested in the desert, Mat 4:1-10)
- B. The desert is unlike Egypt – little food & water, vv. 22-25
- C. The desert is a place of purification, God’s provision, testing, discipline, meeting God, etc.

### **#3. FINDING THE NEW NORMAL REQUIRES EYES OF FAITH, vv. 23-24**

- A. The water was undrinkable, v. 23
- B. The people often complained against Moses / God, v. 24
- C. Ultimate reality isn’t determined by circumstances, 1 Jn 2:15f
- D. Ultimate reality is determined by faith, (Heb 11:1)
- E. God promised to take care of them, (Mat 6:25-34)

### **#4. FINDING THE NEW NORMAL REQUIRES TESTING OUR FAITH, v. 25**

- A. The Lord instructed Moses
- B. The Lord tested them, v. 25 (James 1:2-8)
- C. The people faced multiple challenges
- D. The people faced shortages
- E. The Lord made the water sweet

### **#5. FINDING THE NEW NORMAL REQUIRES OBEDIENCE, vv. 25b-26**

- A. God made a statute & rule, v. 25b
- B. Listen to the voice of the Lord your God, v. 26
- C. Do what is right in his eyes, v. 26 (James 1:22)
- D. God rewards our obedience, v. 26
- E. God offers healing – *YHWH Rapha*, v. 26
- F. God can bring you to springs in the desert, v. 27

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. How do you think the people of God felt after seeing Pharaoh’s army destroyed?
2. What is significant about “Moses made them go” into the desert?
3. In what way(s) is the term “desert” ripe in meaning?
4. Why is it unwise to base our perception of reality on our physical circumstances?
5. How does Hebrews 11:1 & Matthew 6:25-34 tie into the above question?
6. The Israelites constantly complained to Moses & God during their trek in the desert. Why is complaining offensive to God?
7. What is significant about God making the water sweet?
8. What is significant about God revealing himself as “I am the Lord your healer”? (*YHWH Rapha*)
9. What is significant about God bringing the people to Elim on their second stop?
10. There are times when God takes us through a personal desert. How should we view those seasons in life?
11. What are some of your take-aways from this passage?

## Today's Scripture

**Exodus 15:22-27:** Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. <sup>23</sup>When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) <sup>24</sup>So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" <sup>25</sup>Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them. <sup>26</sup>He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you." <sup>27</sup>Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.

**Nehemiah 9:19-21:** Because of your great compassion you did not abandon them in the desert. By day the pillar of cloud did not cease to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night to shine on the way they were to take. <sup>20</sup>You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst. <sup>21</sup>For forty years you sustained them in the desert; they lacked nothing, their clothes did not wear out nor did their feet become swollen.

**Hebrews 11:1:** Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

**Matthew 6:31-34:** So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup>For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup>But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup>Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

**James 1:2-8:** Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup>because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup>Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom,

he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup>But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup>he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

**James 1:22:** Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

## NOTES: