

Sermon Title: "I Want to Go Back"

Exodus 16:1-10

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Scripture Reading

16 The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. **2** The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. **3** The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. **5** On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days."

Sermon Summary

God saw the affliction of God's people in Egypt. God heard their cry, knew their sufferings, and came to deliver them. God hardened pharaoh's heart, and used pharaoh's ways to expedite the Israelites' freedom. (God sent a pandemic to Egypt and split the Red Sea.) The Israelites had a front row seat for all of God's miracles. They saw God do what God promised Moses; the Israelites saw God working on their behalf. However, when the Israelites were in the wilderness (the place between their pain and God's promise), they began to complain and lament. They wanted to go back to Egypt - where they suffered - instead of trusting in God's promise. God fulfilled God's promise after testing the Israelites on whether they would follow God's instruction. When we seek God's resources and follow God's instruction, God will fulfill God's promise to us and deliver us from our afflictions.

Sermon Points

1. Recognize that we are traumatized (verse 3)
 - a. Our society and the church-universal are not adjusting well with changing times
 - b. Our collective wilderness experience (trauma) weighs us down
 - i. We have formed idols (false gods) in our lives and in the church-universal as a result
 - c. Millennials and Generation Z have been traumatized by their collective church experience
 - i. Young people feel shamed by the church and marginalized groups feel unwelcome
 - ii. As a result, we have witnessed a mass-exodus of young people from the church-universal
2. God listens and provides (verse 4)
 - a. God knows and understands the fears of His people
 - b. God has already prepared provisions for His people
3. God requires us to go to the resource (verse 5)
 - a. God shapes the relationship with His people
 - b. God supplied the Israelites with resources; however, God required them to leave where they were and go to God's resources
 - c. When we seek God's resources, God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we could ask or imagine

Reflection Questions

1. What do you need God to deliver you from? What is your "Egypt"?
2. Are you now/have you ever been in the "wilderness" (the place between pain/suffering and deliverance)? Share your experience.
3. What provisions or resources has God already provided for you? Are you seeking those resources?
4. What keeps you stuck in the wilderness?
5. Have you asked God to deliver you?