

On the Road to Elim

13 January 2019

Scripture:

“²² Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. ²⁴ And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” ²⁵ And he cried to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them, ²⁶ saying, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer.” ²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they encamped there by the water.” (Exodus 15:22–27, ESV)

From the Introduction:

There are times in our lives when the Lord delivers us by His hand from our enemies, only to have us lose sight of what He has done for us. When we do lose sight, the Lord is inclined to bring us to the place of “bitter waters” (Marah), in order that we might truly enjoy the rest He has in store for us.

- 1) There are times when we find ourselves in a _____ place.
 - a) We must “Remember the _____ things”
 - b) There are two _____ to dry places.
 - i) A spirit that grumbles (v. 24)
 - ii) A spirit that prays (v. 25)
- 2) There are times when we find ourselves in a _____ place.
 - a) *Marah* means “bitterness,” the water was too bitter to _____.
 - b) We will _____ the “bitter places.”
- 3) There are times when God brings us to a _____ place.
 - a) Elim was an oasis; where twelve springs joined together, surrounded by seventy palms.
 - b) We will experience places of _____.

Remember:

“²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28, ESV)

Reflect:

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.” – Reinhold Niebuhr

Seek:

- 1) In the Matthew 11 passage referenced above, Jesus offers rest to all who would seek Him. Can you remember a time when you found yourself struggling under a burden? How did seeking Jesus bring you through?

Share:

- 1) Try to think back to the last time you found yourself at Elim. Do you remember the joy and rest you experienced before the Lord? Do you remember how difficult it was when you had to leave and found yourself in a dry or bitter place afterward? Share your insights to the experience.

Serve:

- 1) There are times when the Lord brings others into our lives who are in a dry or bitter place; maybe even a place you had previously been. What can you do to help others as they move from the dry or the bitter to the place of rest?

Pray:

This week, if you are in a bitter or dry place, ask the Holy Spirit to sustain you until you reach the place of rest. If you feel you are in Elim, ask God to refresh you and prepare you for whatever He has in store next, and help you to be willing to accept what is to come.