

Healing For Your Soul Exodus 15:22-27

I. This story is a picture of the Gospel in our lives.

- A. Biblical imagery is used to depict the stages of life.
 - 1. Water often represents life in the Bible.
 - 2. The Israelites look for water for three days.
 - (a) But they are in the desert. There is no water. (Psalm 63:1-2).
 - (b) This world is "a dry and weary land."
 - 3. But, we are made to find life in God.
 - (a) We are meant to be satisfied by living water.
 - (b) As non-Christians we are thirsty for living water.
 - (c) There is a longing in us but without God, it is unmet.
 - 4. We seek to satisfy our thirst with things of the world.
 - (a) The water that we find is bitter.
 - (b) We can have everything and still be lonely, empty, unfulfilled.
 - (c) God spoke of this in Jeremiah 2 (broken cisterns).
- B. God shows Moses a tree (Hebrew is 'êts).
 - 1. 'êts is any vertical wooden object.
 - (a) "Cursed is the man who is hung on an 'êts."
 - (b) The cross is an 'êts.
 - 2. Moses throws the tree into the bitter water of life without God.
 - (a) The water becomes sweet.
 - (b) This is a picture of redemption.
 - 3. The cross turns bitter death into sweetness of life.
 - (a) This does not mean that the cross removes all trouble.
 - (b) It means we are brought to life, lavished with grace and love.
 - (c) Bitter and sweet are not about happiness, but relationship.
- C. The last picture is of where we are headed, heaven.
 - 1. Twelve springs; one for each tribe.
 - (a) Abundant living water because of God's Presence.
 - 2. Elim means palm trees, but its root means strength, an oak, mighty man.
 - (a) We will be oaks of righteousness.
 - (b) $70 = 7 \times 10$; Perfection $\times 10$. Exponential perfection.

II. God begins to communicate the principles of covenant.

- A. He calls his people to obedience (Exodus 15:25b-26).
 - 1. God calls his people to listen carefully to his voice.
 - (a) This implies listening to Moses, the prophet.
 - (b) The prophet received revelation, the Word of God.
 - (c) We are called to receive what has been revealed, too.
 - 2. "Do what is right in God's sight" ("his eyes").

- (a) Listening to the Word needs to lead to obedience.
 - (b) This is in contrast to "everyone did what was right in their own eyes."
 - (c) That is people deciding what is right, apart from revelation.
- 3. The world says that truth is relative.
 - (a) Everyone decides what is right for them.
 - (b) But the Bible says there is universal truth that applies to all.
 - (c) Jesus said, "I am the truth."
 - (d) Apart from God and revelation (his Word) we are blind/confused.
 - 4. Therefore, God calls us to submit to what he says is true.
 - (a) Even when we feel differently, we need to trust what God says.
 - (b) Our feelings can steer us wrong because they are influenced by fallen culture and by sin.
 - (c) God says, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind."
 - (d) He renews our mind (thinking, beliefs) as we take in his Word.

B. One of the major issues in the Church today is illiteracy.

- 1. Biblical illiteracy.
 - (a) It's not that people can't read. It's that they don't read.
- 2. How do you do what is right in God's sight if you don't know what he has said is right?
 - (a) The world has greater influence on us.
- 3. The elders are working on a Bible-based relational discipleship.

III. God says, "As you heed my Word, I will be your healer" (Ex. 15:25B-26).

- A. We are all wounded and broken by the effects of sin.
 - 1. We come into the Kingdom of God carrying "baggage."
 - 2. "Diseases" does not just refer to physical illnesses.
 - (a) The Hebrew root word means to make sick, to put to grief, to put to pain.
 - (b) God brought grief and pain on the Egyptians (judgments).
 - (c) Some of the griefs/pain we experience are natural consequences of sinful patterns of living.
- B. In sanctification, God begins a process of progressive healing.
 - 1. "I am the Lord, who heals you."
 - (a) Heal: (rapa) to heal, to mend, to repair, to make whole.
 - 2. This healing is ours by grace.
 - (a) Isaiah 53; "Surely he took up our griefs (same root)...by his wounds we are healed."
 - (b) The love and gracious acceptance of God heal our hearts.
 - 3. Even though it's by grace, we have a role in our healing.
- C. God says, "follow my ways (Word) and it will be healing to you!"