

Ex 15:22 “So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. 23 And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. 24 And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? 25 And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, 26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee. 27 And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.”

1. Beyond the Red Sea crossing, the wilderness of Shur lead them southward to Marah.
2. “And they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water” – This was part of their great difficulty.
3. “And when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah” (Marah means “bitterness”). – This was part of their great difficulty.
 - A. The wrong response: “murmured” (v.24) – God’s blessings did not stop the murmurings.
 - A.1. Murmuring is an expression of discontentment or complaint by grumbling.
 - A.2. Murmuring is to tarry or to remain or to abide or to “stop (overnight)” [permanency] [lingering]
 - A.3. Their murmuring was directed at Moses. (Leadership)
 - A.4. It is okay to be at loss or to stand in doubt, to be troubled or afflicted. To be humbled. To be cast low.
 - A.5. It is not okay to be distressed or despair (to be utterly at a loss) or to be destroyed.
 - A.6. This is a fleshly response. When they were delivered, they expressed great joy but when they were tested, they expressed great distress. Here all of God’s blessings are forgotten.
 - B. The right response: “And he cried unto the LORD” (v.25a)
 - B.1. He brought to God, what was brought to him by the people.
 - B.2. Our greatest comfort is that God is FOR us.
 - B.3. Prayer is our Biblical recourse.
 - B.4. Prayer demonstrates our dependence upon the LORD.
 - B.5. God answered Moses’s prayer and provided for the people.
 - B.5.1. God showed him a tree. (v.25) – God is Creator and He has the power.
 - B.5.2. The tree had properties which made the bitter waters sweet.
4. God trains us through difficulties.
5. God cares for us by being our Provider.
6. “And the LORD showed him a tree” – (Acts 5:30; 10:39; Gal. 3:13) – In the New Testament “a tree” = the cross.
 - A. The cross was the place where Jesus surrendered His will to God. (No self-will)
 - B. The cross was the place where Jesus received everything that God allowed or permitted to happen.
 - C. The cross was the place where Jesus obeyed. (Heb. 5:8) [v.26]
7. It is through the cross that our disappointments are turned into divine appointments.