

Exodus 16:2-15

Manna in the wilderness

16:2 The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

16:3 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 pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

16:4 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.

16:5 On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days."

16:6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt,

16:7 and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?"

16:8 And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him--what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."

16:9 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'"

16:10 And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites: they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

16:11 The LORD spoke to Moses,

16:12"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

16:13In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.

16:14When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground.

16:15When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Remembering the wilderness

105:1O give thanks to the LORD; call on his name; make known his deeds among the peoples.

105:2Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

105:3Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

105:4Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.

105:5Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered,

105:6O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

105:37Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold, and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.

105:38Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it.

105:39He spread a cloud for a covering and fire to give light by night.

105:40They asked, and he brought quails and gave them food from heaven in abundance.

105:41He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.

105:42For he remembered his holy promise and Abraham, his servant.

105:43So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.

105:44He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,

105:45that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the LORD!

Philippians 1:21-30

Standing firm in the gospel

1:21For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.

1:22If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; yet I cannot say which I will choose.

1:23I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better,

1:24but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.

1:25Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith,

1:26so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

1:27Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel

1:28and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.

1:29For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well,

1:30since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20:1-16

The parable of the vineyard workers

20:1"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

20:2After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard.

20:3When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

20:4and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.

20:5When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.

20:6And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?'

20:7They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

20:8When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.'

20:9When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius.

20:10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius.

20:11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,

20:12 saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'

20:13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?

20:14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.

20:15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

20:16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last."