The Indescribable Love of God

Matt Schmidt · Exodus 16:1–15

INTRODUCTION

- In Exodus chapter 16, we find the people of God, the Israelites, 45 days removed from their Egyptian captivity.
- God triumphantly defeated the Egyptians, and the Israelites walked out of Egypt with all of the spoils that they took from those Egyptians.

1 Yahweh Is Repeatedly Generous Despite Grumbling

Numbers 21

- The grumbling started with the Israelites in chapter 15, in verse 24.
- But despite their continual grumbling, despite their apparent lack of gratitude, Yahweh is repeatedly generous to his people.
- Over and over and over again, God responded to their grumbling with generous, life-sustaining, abundant blessings.
- Now, to be clear, God's patience is not a license for us to continue to grumble.

2 What Is It? An Indescribable Gift

Exodus 16:15; Exodus 16:31

- But the idea that the God of the Old Testament is just a fierce and fickle, angry, malicious force, is just simply an inaccurate understanding of the God of the Bible.
- He loves them despite their betrayals and despite their ingratitude. In fact, his blessings often surpass their imagination and ours.
- In Hebrew, they said, what is it? Their experience and their language did not have a description for this gift.
- It was beyond adequate description. It was like nothing they had expected, like nothing they had ever known.
- In that moment, though, don't we often ask, what is this? Quite simply, it is the love of God, given as an indescribable gift.

3 The Blessings of God Declare His Power and Glory

Exodus 16:7; Exodus 16:10

- Moses and Aaron tell all the sons of Israel in verse seven, in the morning you will see the glory of God.
- They looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.
- His blessings to us prove that he is able to see our needs, and that he is able to meet those needs abundantly beyond what we can imagine.

4 His Blessings Declare His Promises

Exodus 16:12

- I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians. For I, Yahweh, am your healer.
- He blesses us to prove that he wants us to know him. He wants us to have relationship with him.
- This is not a God smiting the grumblers in the wilderness. This is a God taking the abuse and offering love.
- Even the atheists and pagans woke up today to sunrise. He continues to bless us even when we reject him.

5 God's Provision Gives Opportunity for Rest

Exodus 16:4

- The Sabbath was instituted here in the wilderness before Sinai.
- Before he offers them law, he first offers them gifts and relationship and rest.
- True rest comes when I start believing that God is capable of giving me what I need rather than all of the devices and impulses and addictions that weigh me down.
- God's blessings are bountiful, God's blessings are plentiful, God's blessings are abundantly beyond what we need. But we must be willing to heed his instruction.

6 Jesus Is the True Bread of Heaven

John 6:30–35; John 6:48–51

- Because this manna, this bread from heaven, was just a foreshadowing.
- Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.
- Your fathers ate manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.
- Jesus is the blessing from God that is given generously despite our grumblings. Jesus is the revelation of God's glory, and he is the assurance that God keeps his promises.

THE CHALLENGE

Do you want this indescribable gift?

MY NOTES