

Title: Bitter to Better

Text: Exodus 15:22-27

Targets: God doesn't just heal what hurts; He uses what hurts to reveal who He is.

- I. **God Leads:** *"Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur."* (Exodus 15:22)
 - A. **In Victory:** God gives us victories to remember when we will need to trust him again. (Song of Moses: Exodus 15:3)
 - B. **In Hardship:** God doesn't remove the wilderness in our lives; He just shows up in it.
- II. **God Uses:** *"They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah."* (Exodus 15:22b-23)
 - A. **Place to Reveal:** What's bitter in us is the unhealed wound within us.
 - B. **Testing to Expose:** What looks like salvation not always is!
- III. **God Transforms:** *"And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, 'What shall we drink?' 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."* (Exodus 15:24-25)
 - A. **The Overlooked:** God's answers don't always look like our expectations
 1. **The Log:** Valuable for fire and shelter, not for drinking
 2. **The Bitter Water:** It's unusable for human consumption
 - B. **The Connection:** The answer wasn't the water, it was the tree
 1. **God's Plan**
 2. **Required Faith/Obedience**
 3. **Tree Absorbed the Curse**
 4. **The Water was made New**
- IV. **God Reveals:** *"There the Lord made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them, 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.'" (Exodus 15:25b-26)*

 - A. **Heals Personally:** (Isaiah 53:5, Psalm 103:3, 147:3, Luke 4:18, James 5:14-15)
 1. **Physically:** Sickness, Pain, Disease, Weakness, Suffering
 2. **Emotionally:** Grief, Rejection, Trauma, Anxiety, Fear, Shame
 3. **Relationally:** Marriages, Families, Friendships
 4. **Mentally:** Thinking, Strongholds, Lies
 - B. **Heals Intentionally:** (2 Chronicles 7:14, Hosea 6:1)
 1. **Nations:** Lands, Cities, Communities
 2. **Creation:** Death is no longer

Takeaway: God will often lead you through what feels so bitter to bring about the sweetness of healing so you can be used of God to bring healing to others.