

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Exodus 15:22-26 *The Waters of Marah and Elim*

²² Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) ²⁴ So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?"

²⁵ Then Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink. There the Lord issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. ²⁶ He said, "If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you."

*Image of Marah:

Exodus 15: 22- 23

²² Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.)

*Image of Explosion at Beirut Lebanon:

From 8/6/2020 news, 135 have died, 5,000 have injured, thousands of families have become homeless due to this explosion

*Image of USA Map with COVID-19 Cases:

Over 5 million cases have been confirmed and over 163,000 have died from COVID-19

1. What Did the People Do?

- **Exodus 15:24** *So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?"*
- **1 Corinthians 10:10** *And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.*
- First thing the people did was to complain and grumble about not having water. It is so easy for all of us to complain and grumble when things go wrong. Lord is reminding us not to complain / grumble through these scriptures.

2. What Did Moses Do?

- First thing Moses did was to call out to the Lord. Moses knew, he can NOT solve the problem. If we were at Marah, what you have done?

Exodus 15:25 *Then Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink. There the Lord issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test.*

- Of all biblical characters, David went through so much difficulties in his life. And every time he faced life challenges, he cried out to the Lord for help.

Psalms 18:6 *In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.*

- As we read through the scriptures, we see that the Lord heard the cries of Moses and David. We all have distress in our lives, but instead of grumbling we need to cry out and reach out to the Lord.

Psalms 120:1 *I call on the Lord in my distress, and he answers me.*

- As we think of the people of Beirut - let us know take this moment to pray.

Romans 8:34 *Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.*

3. What Did the Lord Do?

- In today's scripture verse 25, we see the Lord answering to Moses' cry. The piece of wood the Lord provides represents the cross where Jesus Christ died to save us.

Exodus 15:25 *Then Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink. There the Lord issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test.*

Exodus 15:26 *He said, "If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you."*

- The wood also represents the love the Lord has for us. Through the bitterness we experience in life, the Lord is showing us and reminding us about his true love.
- In the last scene of the movie Ben-Hur, the death of Jesus Christ on the cross shows the love and healing He provides for us.

***Story of Mary and Her Dad** - Mary was eating chocolate when her dad came back from work. The moment she heard her dad come in, Mary ran to her father and left finger prints all over her father's white shirt. Her dad was about to yell at Mary and thought..."How could I come to Heavenly Father, when I have sinned for so many years? nevertheless, the Lord held me in His arms!" After realizing this, Mary's father overcame with great love and joy for his daughter.

*** Story of Solider from Korean 6.25 War** - Bill was a soldier and he came back home after he was hit by a bomb. He was paralyzed neck down. His wife Stella, for 3-years, stayed by him at the hospital. One night, Stella cried to the husband asking for a divorce. Bill said to Stella, wait for one more night and they can separate. That night, Bill cried out to the Lord asking for strength and His Holy Spirit to heal him. That moment, he was able to feel his fingers and toes. It was a miracle and after this prayer he became a great evangelist.

***Story of Pastor Tony Campolo** - Pastor Campolo was holding his ministry at Oregon. One of his church member asked for a prayer to cure cancer. A week after, the patient's wife call Pastor Campolo. The pastor thought it was a good news that the patient was cancer free. However, the wife told the pastor her husband died. She continued saying, "Pastor! Don't be upset. My husband was full of anger and he cursed God for being so unfair. Whenever I saw this, it was very painful to be around him. But after your prayer, peace and joy came to my husband. Pastor! The last three days were the happiest times in our lives. We sang, laughed, read the Bible, and prayed. I called to thank you for praying for him." She added "My husband was not cured, but he was healed."

My brothers and sisters, the Lord is with ALL of us...so let's remember:

1. Let us pray instead of grumble
2. Let us obey the word of God
3. Let us hold onto the cross whenever we face bitterness in life