

Exodus 15:1-27
“Steps Toward Maturity”

~ INTRO ~

AS WE CONTINUE OUR STUDY THRU (Exodus)...

- Let's see how God uses **TLC** in a believers life:
 - 1) Trials (vv.22-25)
 - 2) Learning (v.26)
 - 3) Compassion (v.27)

IDEA #1 – TRIALS

(Num. 33:3-b) NKJV...

- Israel left Egypt with boldness...
 - But they got scared at the Red Sea.
- God delivered them & they praised Him (Ex. 14:30-31 – 15:1).

BUT... WHY DID THEY HAVE TO GO THRU THE RED SEA?

- (Ex. 13:17) NKJV

GOD LED THEM IN THIS DIRECTION...

- Because He had to teach them to trust Him!
 - Battles, trails, & difficulties is how...
 - God develops our faith.

(Rom. 5:3-5) NLT

BACK IN (Ex. 15:22)...

- Three days after the Red Sea crossing...
 - They find themselves in the Wilderness of Shur...
 - Which literally means = *Wall*.

THEY WENT FROM...

- Being rescued by God thru the walls of water (Ex. 14:29)...
 - To being in need of WATER for survival.

TRIALS...

- Expose the junk God is taking out of our lives.

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IN THE EXODUS NARRATIVE...

- God helped His people over & over again...
 - But they wouldn't sit still long enough to trust Him!

(1 Peter 4:12-16) NLT

OUR NATURAL TENDENCY...

- Is to get frustrated with God...
 - And say: God why are You doing this to me???

(v.24) That's what Israel did...

- They *complained* for 40-yrs & never grew up!

IDEA #2 – LEARNING

(v.25) A BEAUTIFUL FORESHADOWING OF THE CROSS...

- Where we learn that Jesus...
 - Takes the bitterness out of our circumstances.

GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE...

- To learn the lessons of faith.
 - So we can trust Him in moments of struggle.

(v.25-c) “*He tested them*”

LITERALLY:

- To prove OR try by smell.
- The adversity was to draw out that which was in them.

THE “*Test*”...

- Is the refining fire of *TRIALS* that draws out impurities within our lives.

NOW... (v.26) IS THE LEARNING...

- Jesus said to abide in His word (John 15).

CHARACTER...

- Is developed as we surrender to God-given-circumstances...
 - That fall outside of our control.

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- Because this is the road of faith...
 - Toward Christian maturity.

IDEA #3 – COMPASSION

JOB AT THE END OF HIS TRIAL...

- (Job 42:5) NKJV Understood what God was up to!

IN (v.27) these 12-wells of water & 70-palm trees...

- Reflect the same thing...
 - God's compassion for His people.
- He uses the struggles to mold us...
 - And here's the Biblical perspective (James 1:2) NLT

~ IN CLOSING ~

ONE INTERESTING FACT ABOUT PALM TREES:

- They're the ONLY tree in the world that bears more fruit as they age.

GANG...

- As you mature in Jesus...
 - You will naturally bear more fruit.