

Exodus 17:1-16
“*Armpit Ministry*”

~ INTRO ~

AS WE CONTINUE OUR STUDY...

- We come to an often-overlooked ministry.
 - A ministry that... can carry some stink to it.
 - It's called the *Armpit Ministry*.

HOLDING UP THE ARMS OF THE LEADER.

- It requires faith & courage.

NOW...

- Not everyone wants to be this close in ministry.
 - But for those called to IT... your calling is essential.

IN PRINCIPLE...

- All of God's people contribute to success by offering support...
 - Instead of complaining.

READ (Ex. 16:35)

- An overview of God's faithfulness...
 - For 40-years God continued to supply all of Israel's needs.
 - Moses later writes... (Deut. 29:5-6) NLT.

IDEA #1 – REPEAT TRIAL

(v.1) *Wilderness of Sin* (scene)...

- This is a place of clay marshes & thorny bushes.
 - It made it hard for them to travel with 2 ½ million people.

YET... THIS WAS THE ROUTE...

- God laid out for them...
 - While leading them to *Rephidim* – “resting place.”

CHURCH DON'T FORGET...

- What we observed in (Exodus 15)...
 - The pattern God was using... to grow them up...
 - Was trial, instruction, & rest... over and over again.

IT'S THE SAME FOR THE CHURCH...

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- Trials provide the circumstantial HEAT...
 - That God uses... to shape lives of faith.

BUT FOR ISRAEL...

- They wouldn't trust God!
 - And this was their pattern for 40-years until they all died.

(Heb. 3:12-19) NKJV

HERE'S THE POINT... DON'T MISS IT...

- *Disobedience* is always linked to *unbelief*!

PRACTICAL TRUTHS TO REMEMBER:

- 1) *Fight the will of God and it will break you; accept the will of God and it will make you.*¹
- 2) Christians should know that *disappointments* are avenues for maturity.²

GOD HAS A PLAN HE IS WORKING OUT...

- And He wants you to trust & follow Him.

(1 Peter 2:7-10) NLT

IDEA #2 – DON'T LOSE THIS BATTLE

(v.8) *AMALEK*... IN BIBLICAL TYPOLOGY...

- Represent the sinful nature of the old life (a.k.a. the flesh).
 - Joshua was in the valley **battling** the enemy...
 - While Moses was on the hill **praying** to God for victory.

BOTH ARE NEEDED.

- Seeking God in prayer that we might destroy the works of our flesh.
 - The sinful desires that tempt us to compromise & go back.

AS THIS SCENE UNFOLDS...

- I want to give you an example why we must NOT lose this battle.

¹ *The Bumps Are What You Climb On* – Warren Wiersbe (p.54). Published by Baker Books (2002).

² Ibid. (p.56).

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(1 Sam. 15:2-3) NKJV

- Saul took 210,000 people (v.4)...
 - God gave him the resource to completely destroy Amalek.
- (v.7) Saul attacked the Amalekites.

HOWEVER...

- At (v.9) Saul keep **King Agag** alive & spared the best of the livestock.
 - He compromised!

CHURCH... WRITE THIS TERM DOWN...

- *Partial Obedience* – is sin!

AND BECAUSE SAUL DIDN'T OBEY GOD...

- By completely destroying the Amalekites.
 - 25-years later in (2 Sam 1:8)...
 - King Agag son killed Saul.

SAUL... DIDN'T COMPLETELY DESTROY HIS FLESH...

- And it came back to kill him!
 - The same is true for Christians...
 - Who toy around with the lust of the flesh for this world.
 - It will come back to bite you!

CHURCH... WE OVERCOME BY FAITH...

- (1 John 5:4) NLT

~ IN CLOSING ~

(Ex. 17:15) *YAHWEH-NISSI* (the Lord is my banner)...

- The victory in the Christians life is only found in Jesus Christ.
 - (Gal. 5:16) NLT