

TURNING POUTS INTO PRAISES
JUST ADD WATER

EXODUS 15:22-27

- Intro:
1. In the foyer is bread, it may not be the kind you like, the flavor you desire, or the freshness you prefer...but it's free!
 2. But, just as free bread is nutritious for the body, the paths of God are HEALTHY for your soul and free by faith.
 3. In Exodus 15:22-27, God promises that if His people follow in His way, they will experience health of soul and spirit.

Prop: **You must Experience God's Joy.**

I. By Looking to God First—not men(15:22-24).

1. Marah=bitter; not poison, just unpleasant
2. If your complaints are serious enough, then your first stop will be the alter, not the human leadership.
3. Isaiah 55:1-3, who do we turn to for true, lasting satisfaction? James 1:1-2, Our bitter moments are for strength, not strife!
4. Does it really do any good to complain to the receptionist? If your grievance is legitimate, then you'll approach the mgr.
5. Dear friend, are you weary of grumbling with men trying to get your every whim satisfied—will you look up today, repent and come with thanksgiving for the blessings of salvation & hope?

II. By Obeying God's Instruction—not this world's (15:25-26).

1. v.25, ordinance/statute=rule; direction
v.25, "proved" = to test; attempt
v.26, "give ear" = to expand; broaden out one's hearing
2. When you cast the tree of the cross into the trials of life, the bitterness turns to sweet glory.
3. Gal.3:13 (Christ cursed on a tree);
Rom.5:3-4 (Us blessed by a trial)
God giving man an opportunity to trust Him—find Him true!
4. Just as we only go to the doctor when sick; so, we turn to God with our soul because we truly are sin-sick from birth.
5. Folks, God's way for life is safe and healthful for you; will you turn from this world's philosophies to God's plain teaching for your life, family, work and leisure and experience His joy in every way?

III. By Proceeding to the Next Step—not standing still (15:27).

1. Elim (=palm trees) was only ten more miles ahead.
2. If we stand still at every problem, then we will never see the blessings God has in store for His faithful.
3. Would they have complained if they knew of water ahead? Yet, we say we trust God, and stop to complain and moan even in light of Romans 8:28.
4. Friend, you may have come here to find God's answer, but you need to take the next step to receive Christ for salvation. Dear soul, you may have stopped spiritually a while back with some bitter experience, but you now it's time to wake up to what God is doing, repent and move on with us in His spirit.

Do you may need to come and receive Christ today as your savior?—TURN TO GOD FIRST!

Do you need to take the next step of baptism; joining the church; serving in the church?—OBEY GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS!

Will you proceed and be richly blessed or stand still and loose the joy of experiencing God's blessing and praise?—PROCEDE

Invit. Hymn: Let Jesus Come Into Your Heart (#230, '56BH)