

(You can also find this same reading in **Numbers 33:9**)

How many of us have worked so hard that we don't feel we can go any farther. We have pushed, carried, shoved, crawled and dragged ourselves to complete the labor for the day...then we see it! The lounge chair! Best part yet...we can sit in it! Here is where the Israelites were at. They are moving through what is now the Sinai Peninsula.

- I. First, notice their walk from the desert
 - a. As was mentioned last week, we find that the people had a glorious victory.
 - b. There is sense of unconquerability that could have been in their mindset. The mightiest nation in the world was not able to defeat them.
 - c. Then sadly, as we saw, the mourning began.
 - i. They murmured against Moses because they had no water
 - ii. They were provided water by God at Marah (please remember last week's message)
 - iii. Now, they move forward from Marah to Elim (The Sinai is very rocky) and we come to our verse.
- II. Notice also that they come to this oasis – **Exodus 15:27**
 - a. The oasis, to a man wandering through the desert, is a wonderful sight.
 - b. How refreshing this would have been
 - i. The people needed rest. They needed a refresher. I am sure a drink as well
 - ii. Here, God provided this for them
 1. Notice, that God also provided enough for all of them - 12 wells for 12 Tribes and 70 palm trees for 70 elders – **Numbers 11:16**. (I would encourage a study of the number 12 and 70 in Scripture...very interesting)
 2. God gave them exactly what they needed!
 - c. Lesson for us: Do we feel like we are walking through a desert in our own spiritual journey?
 - i. As we go through our life, our Spiritual journey is not always green grass or as was explained last week, a mountain top experience.
 - ii. Sometimes it is hard. It is challenging. It is like walking through the desert.
 - iii. We may be in this place where we don't feel that we have control. The spiritual journey seems barren. Empty. Dry! We may feel that the Lord is not with us and we wonder where is He?
 1. The Hebrews may had a cloud of smoke and a pillar of fire
 2. We may think that we have been abandoned or left alone to figure it out...We may wonder what we have!
 3. We have the Holy Spirit. (example: **My wife's favorite poem: footprints**)
 - iv. Can I give you some encouragement for those times?

1. We find in the Scriptures where the Bible can speak to us – Galatians 6:9¹
 - a. It is well doing to grow in our Spiritual journey. While it may be hard, we need to continue pushing forward
 - b. A song I heard uses a phrase that says, “Hurry up and wait upon the Lord”.
 - c. As we think about this in a Spiritual sense, we also know that sometimes temptations and trials can seem to be that same desert! Notice then 1 Corinthians 10:13 (The word bear can also be translated as endure!)
 - d. When it seems hard. When it seems dry. When it seems to hot to continue...ENDURE! You can do that. Not by your own strength but by His strength! – Romans 8:37
 - i. Everything above this verse can conquer. The thing about a conquer is that they can be conquered.
 - ii. Here, however, we are more than conquerors! We cannot be conquered by anything (notice the list in Romans 8:35-36)
 2. We also find another powerful verse dealing with our walk – Isaiah 40:31²
 - a. It is a hard road sometimes. It becomes impossible if we try to walk the spiritual road by ourselves
 - b. However, if we wait upon God He will help us. He will be there for us (As seen in John 14:16) Notice it is called the helper in the NKJV!
 - c. Think about the Holy Spirit HELPING us in our walk! Wow! The creator of the universe is there to help us!
- III. Notice the last part of this verse – Exodus 15:27
- a. Notice that they now camped here.
 - b. This is interesting because they were to move when the cloud moved and they were to stop when the cloud stopped – Exodus 40:36-38
 - c. It stopped here, and we are not sure how long they rested here, but whatever the time it was, God was the one who was controlling it.
 - d. I love the last phrase. They camped.
 - i. They were following God. God was guiding and leading them
 - ii. They then camped – That means that God stopped their march!
 - e. God knew how far they could go. He knew what they could handle (after all, He just got done hearing the complaining!) – Psalm 116:5³

¹ Gal 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

² Isa 40:31 But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

- i. He led them right to where they needed to be to be refreshed (subsequently to get us prepared for our next challenge of faith)
 - ii. He took them to the place where they had all that they needed
 - iii. Was it the Promised Land...No! Was it a much needed break from what they had been doing...Yes!
- f. Lesson for us: God will also lead us to a place of rest!
 - i. As we look at our own Spiritual walk, there are times where after a walk through a very trying and dry spell, God leads us right to where we need to be.
 - ii. It has all that we need and it will take care of us
 - iii. It reminds me of **Psalm 23:1-2**
 - iv. God will lead us to where we need to be
 - 1. He leads us beside the still waters, that life giving water that will help to revitalize our Spirit...Interesting to note that in the N.T. Jesus is called the Living water.
 - 2. He is the one whom we can be content and satisfied in on our journey.
 - 3. He is our refreshing that the Spirit needs!
 - v. God will also do that for us
 - 1. God will take us to a place of Spiritual refreshment. – Notice **Psalm 23:3**
 - 2. We may be struggling through our own Spiritual walk. We may come to a point where we cannot think of going one more step.
 - 3. Don't quite on God. He hasn't quite on you. He never pushes you harder than you can handle and He never forces you to go without what you need!
 - 4. We can know this because He is a good Father – **Matthew 7:11**

³ **Psa 116:5** Gracious *is* the LORD, and righteous; Yes, our God *is* merciful.