

Exodus chapter 16.

We've been following the children of Israel as they make their way out of Egypt. It's been about forty-five days since that night of the Passover. They've seen the Red Sea split, they've seen the Egyptian army defeated, and they've just left the refreshing springs of Elim. But now, as they enter the Wilderness of Sin, the "honeymoon phase" of the Exodus seems to be over.

The Danger of a Distorted Memory

In verses 1 through 3, we see the whole congregation beginning to murmur against Moses and Aaron. They say, *"Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."*

Isn't it amazing how quickly we forget? When these people were in Egypt, they were crying out under the lash of the taskmaster. Their lives were bitter with hard bondage. But now that their stomachs are growling, they've developed "sanctified amnesia." They remember the "flesh pots" but they forget the whip.

We do the same thing, don't we? When things get a little tight in our walk with the Lord, we start looking back at our life in the world through rose-colored glasses. We remember the "fun" we had, but we forget the emptiness, the hangovers, and the absolute bondage of sin. Satan is a master at making the "flesh pots" of your past look better than the "promises" of your future.

Murmuring is a Heart Issue

In verses 4 through 8, the Lord tells Moses He's going to rain bread from heaven. But notice what Moses says to the people: *"Your murmurings are not against us but against the LORD."*

That is a heavy word. You see, when we complain about our circumstances—our job, our health, our finances—we aren't just venting. We are actually challenging the wisdom of God. We are saying, "God, You don't know what You're doing." Unless you are in a place because of your own direct disobedience, you are exactly where God has placed you. To murmur against your "lot" is to murmur against the One who cast the lot.

The Bread of Life

God responds not with judgment, but with grace. He sends quails in the evening and this "small round substance" in the morning. When the Israelites saw it, they asked, *"What is it?"*—which in Hebrew is *Manna*.

God gave them specific instructions: gather only what you need for the day. He was teaching them daily dependence. He wanted them to wake up every morning and look to Him.

- **The Test of Obedience:** Some tried to hoard it (verse 20), and it bred worms and stank. You can't live today on yesterday's manna. You need a fresh touch from the Lord every single morning.
- **The Gift of Rest:** On the sixth day, they gathered a double portion so they could rest on the Sabbath. God was building a rhythm of rest into their lives before the Law was even given at Sinai. The Sabbath was a gift—a day to stop striving and simply realize that God is the Provider.

Practical Application: Gathering Your Manna

So, what does this mean for us today? This manna is a beautiful type of the Word of God and of Jesus Himself.

1. **You must gather it for yourself.** Moses couldn't eat for the people. I can't eat for you. You need to get into the Word for yourself every day.
2. **You must gather it early.** Before the sun gets hot and the distractions of the day melt away your focus, find that time with the Lord.
3. **You must apply it.** Knowing about the manna didn't feed them; they had to go out, pick it up, and eat it.

A Challenge for the Believer

Are you murmuring today? Are you looking back at "Egypt" because the "Wilderness" feels too dry? My challenge to you is to stop looking at the horizon and start looking at the ground—at the provision God has placed right in front of you. Trust Him for today's "omer." He has never failed to feed His children, and He won't start with you.

An Invitation to the Hungry Soul

Maybe you're reading this and you realize you've been trying to satisfy your soul with the "bread of Egypt"—things that leave you empty and in bondage.

Jesus said, *"I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever."* Two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ shed His blood on the cross to pay for your sins. He took the judgment you deserved so that you could taste the grace you don't deserve. The fact that He rose from the dead proves He is exactly who He claimed to be: the Savior and the Lord of all.

You don't have to wander in the wilderness of sin anymore. You can come to Him today. Just say, "Lord, I'm a sinner. I believe You died for me and rose again. Wash me clean and be the Lord of my life."