

Three Great Words for the Journey

Exodus 15:19–27

A. Introduction: From Deliverance to the Journey

1. The people of Israel have just experienced one of the greatest miracles in history.
2. The Red Sea parted while the people crossed. The Egyptian army drowned.
3. The enemy that had enslaved them for centuries was gone.
4. Exodus 15 records one of the first great worship services in Scripture.
5. They celebrated, but life with God is about the journey, not just the deliverance.
6. Israel's deliverance from Egypt pictures our own salvation, as slaves to sin.
7. We were bound by the enemy, but were set free by the blood of the Lamb.
8. There are mountaintop moments — but there are also valleys.
9. God gives us three great words for the journey: **Celebrate. Trust. Dedicate.**

B. Celebrate (vv. 1–21)

1. Moses led the people through the Red Sea, but Paroah's army didn't!
2. Notice what happens next - the people worship.
3. What looked impossible became God's triumph.
4. The army that terrified them was swallowed by the waters.
5. Their praise was public. Miriam led the women with tambourines and dancing.
6. This was not quiet gratitude — it was joyful proclamation, a celebration
7. They were free, no longer slaves, their enemy had been defeated.
8. They were on their way to the Promised Land. Worship followed deliverance.
9. We have even greater reason to celebrate.
10. Our sins have been forgiven, & we have been justified before God.
11. Our enemy has been defeated & we are on our way to an eternal inheritance.
12. Victories should be acknowledged, not assumed.
13. Do we celebrate what God has done? Or rush forward & forget His mercy?
14. Gratitude strengthens faith for what lies ahead. Worship anchors memory.
15. What we celebrate shapes our memory, our memory shapes how we endure.
16. The journey with God begins with worship. But the story does not end in song.

C. Trust (vv. 22–25)

1. Three days later, the singing stopped.
2. They travelled in the desert without finding water.
3. They finally found some, at a place was called Marah — which means “bitter.”
4. Their first serious problem on the journey. victory to vulnerability in three days.
5. The people ran out of water. And when they found it, they could not drink it.
6. Celebration turned into complaints against Moses, “What are we to drink?”
7. How quickly they forgot the God who had just parted the sea.
8. Testing reveals what is in the heart.
9. Notice something important: God led them there.
10. The God of the Red Sea is also the God of Marah.
11. Every believer will face Marah moments, when circumstances are bitter.

12. Times when joy fades & questions rise. But testing doesn't mean abandonment.
13. The people grumbled. But Moses prayed. That is the difference.
14. God provided the solution. He showed Moses a piece of wood.
15. When Moses threw it into the water, the water became sweet.
16. Sometimes bitter experiences make bitter people.
17. But when we cry out to God, He transforms the bitterness.
18. It allows us to see ourselves as who we truly are – God's creation!
19. This reminds us God often uses unexpected means to accomplish His purposes.
20. Complaining clouds our perspective. Prayer opens the door for provision.
21. The wilderness is not meant to destroy us — it is meant to deepen us.
22. God was not just providing water. He was teaching trust.

D. Dedicate (vv. 26–27)

1. After the miracle at Marah, God reveals Himself as “The Lord who heals.”
2. This is more than physical healing. It is covenant healing.
3. God delivers, then promises to preserve & restore them as they walk in obedience.
4. Notice the order: First redemption, then testing, then revelation, then obedience.
5. Obedience is not payment for grace — it is response to grace.
6. They were already delivered before this command was given.
7. Trust is expressed through obedience.
8. Dedication flows from gratitude.
9. God was teaching them that the wilderness was a classroom.
10. They were learning not only what God could do — but who God is.
11. Elim came after Marah. A place of rest after testing.
12. God does not lead His people from bitterness to endless barrenness.
13. He seasons hardship with mercy.
14. Trust God in the bitter places.
15. Elim is ahead for those who keep walking.
16. The same God of the Red Sea is the God of Marah.
17. And He is the God of Elim.

E. Conclusion

1. Three great words for the journey:
2. **Celebrate what God has done.**
3. **Trust Him when the water is bitter.**
4. **Dedicate yourself to obedient faith.**
5. Deliverance is only the beginning. The God who saves is the God who sustains.
6. The God who parts seas also sweetens bitter water. He tests then also refreshes.
7. Perhaps today you are standing on the shore of victory. Celebrate.
8. Perhaps you are at Marah, facing bitter waters. Trust.
9. Perhaps God is calling you deeper into obedience. Dedicate.
10. And if you have not yet begun the journey — the invitation is open.
11. The God who rescued Israel is still rescuing people today.
12. Start the journey. He will travel with you.