

God's grace for a grumbling people

Exodus 15-18

"The Good Place" on Netflix...two big problems

Problem 1: God is absent

Problem 2: You enter the good place by good works

The question: Why bother living any differently?

The context of Exodus 15-18

The Exodus and then... a curious moment (Exodus 13:17-18)

God loves us too much to leave us in our doubts about him

'be still' - outer, not inner, stillness (Exodus 14:13-14)

God saves Israel with a purpose (Exodus 15:13-18)

The Grumbling of Israel (15-16)

"What are we to drink?" (15:24)

"You have brought us out...to starve" (Exodus 16:3)

The grace of our God (16:11)

The rescue-complaint pattern in our life?

Getting the order right:

Obedience so that we might be saved?

OR

Saved so that we might obey?

he saved us,
not because of righteous things we had done,
but because of his mercy. (Titus 3:3-7)

Conclusion

Discussion

1. Why is it important to get the order right: we are saved for obedience, not obedience for salvation? What does this say about the character of God and the life of obedience?
2. What are you most likely to grumble about? How does reflecting on God's character in Exodus revive a healthier attitude?
3. What specific actions or habits might help for us to joyfully to depend on God's grace, rather than grumbling about what we don't have?