

Sermon Reflections

TRUSTING GOD • Exodus 17:1-16

Summary: We test God, because our faith is weak. To help, God sends a mediator to reassure us of His word. Don't harden your heart to God's message sent by His chosen mediator.

Help for Weak Faith

1. Your Wandering Heart Needs Daily Reminders of His Presence (vv. 1-7)

- God knew the faith of the people was weak, but He wanted to show their lack of trust to them so that they would see it. Can you think of an example when you have realized this in your own life?
- The children of Israel had been shown many examples of God's goodness quite recently, but they were filled with doubt and fear. But consider yourself. You have God's word and know that He is good, that He can't lie, and wants only our good. So, why is it so hard to take God at His word; to trust Him? How has God shown you that you can trust Him?
- How can we keep from testing God in our own lives?
- Why did God send the people a mediator and why is this so important for us to remember as well? Israel takes their fear and unbelief out on Moses. Have you ever had someone blame you for something God was doing in that person's life? How did you feel/react?
- Fear verses faith - what should you tell yourself about the difference between the two?
- Moses' role as the mediator is vital. Why is Hebrews 3:7—19 so important for us to make sure we don't become like those that wandered in the wilderness?
- God will not share His glory with anyone. How does your faith bring glory to God and your unbelief insults the integrity of God?

2. Your Weary Heart Needs Constant Reassurances of His Power (vv. 8-16)

- Why does the Lord see fit to shift gears and include the account of Israel having to fight the Amalekites? What is the connection between the latter half of Chapter 17 and the first half?
- How does this battle and its outcome relate to their earlier doubts, anger and overall sinful actions against the Lord. What lessons have you learned from this amazing account of the goodness and grace of God?
- On what two battle fronts did Israel face the Amalekites? What aspect of the battle was Moses engaged in? How did his role affect the outcome?
- What kind of battle are you called to? (Ephesians 6) How does knowing the outcome of the battle you are presently in affect you? (Romans 8:31-39)
- How do these truths help and encourage you to treasure Jesus Christ?