

The Rule of Three

Intro

- Review the rule of three
- Going to see this literally come into play. Also going to see three pictures of Jesus.

Exodus 15

15:1-21

- Does God take pleasure in doing things like this to people (killing the Egyptians)? Of course not. They were also made in His image. They all had seen what God had done, had a chance to repent, but didn't. God means business on both sides.
- Is it right to rejoice and sing about the death of others? I don't know that they are rejoicing over their death as much as they are relieved that the threat is gone, and are thanking God for what/how He had done it.
- Most Americans never face an enemy that wants to kill them. End of WW2 we see people rejoicing, few at the deaths on both sides. Took two nukes.
- Song reflects a holy high, a mountain top experience. Good feeling, but nowhere to go but down, and down they went. Summer camps. Doesn't invalidate what God did, just need to learn to put them in the big picture as we mature and grow in the Lord.

15:22-27

- 22-24 Had to pack water with them. No convenience stores. Three days in our climate not too bad compared to three days in a hot arid wilderness. Who did they complain against? Moses.
- 25-26 prophecy isn't just prediction, it is also pattern.
 - The plain
 - tree, branch, piece of wood. Was it the properties of the wood that purified the water? Possible though not likely.
 - More likely God asking for a step of faith, do something that makes no sense in a way, obedience. Miracle. We say show me and I'll believe. God says believe and I'll show you.
 - The pattern
 - Jesus Himself. Referred to as the branch. Cut down, out, purifies.
 - The cross. Same idea. Have you put your faith in this thing that doesn't, on its own, make sense? It is the only way to be purified.
 - The purpose. A test, testing their strength, how much they can handle.
 - The promise. He would be their healer. Even if they disobey and repent, which they will (Judges), He will be their healer. He can be our healer too. Physical, spiritual, emotional.
- 27 These waters were already pure. Why not lead them there first? A test. Need to learn to trust in and rely on God even in, especially in impossible circumstances. Possible first coming second coming pattern here?

Exodus 16

- The plain.

- The quail and the manna were both miracles of God to provide for His people.
- Given this stuff to make in different ways into food.
- Didn't have to raise crops.
- Had to go out and gather it yourself daily.
- It was the bread that the Lord had given them to eat.
- It was always enough.
- Can't live off today's bread tomorrow.
- The pattern
 - The word. Go through last four above.
 - Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word of God.
 - Revelation 10 John told to eat the scroll.
 - Eating has always been a figure of speech to consume just about anything. Books, cute babies, when you wipe out completely.
 - Jesus. Go through last four above.
 - Born in Bethlehem, house of bread.
 - John 6:26-69
 - Passover
- The purpose. To test them. V. 4
- The promise. Implied, the Lord will provide for them daily what they need for that day.

Exodus 17:1-7

- The plain. Clearly a miracle of God. Water does not normally come from a rock, especially when you hit it with a stick.
- The pattern.
 - Jesus. Stricken for us. Out of his side came blood and water.
 - The word. Ephesians 5 washed in the water of the word.
 - The Spirit. Baptism, John 4 and the well.
- The purpose. So that the people may drink.
- The promise. Implied, again, the Lord Himself will take care of them.

Jesus is everything!

- One might ask, "Are you consumed by Jesus?" which is a good question. Does He have all you you?
- An equally good question, and perhaps more relevant to this passage is, "Are you consuming Jesus?" Not in the context of our throw away society, but are you eating and drinking Him, the Spirit, the word?
- We need water. 70+% water and a couple of pounds of chemicals. We need bread. Most basic and ancient of foods. Has most of what our bodies need.
- You can generally tell what someones diet is like. You can also tell when someone has gone from a junk food diet to a healthy diet.
- We need Jesus, the Spirit, the word, to not just survive, but to live, really live.
- You can also generally tell what someones spiritual diet is like. Junk food diets produce fat, lazy christians. Healthy food diets produce powerful, effective followers of Jesus.
- What are you eating? Who are you going to for food? Consume Jesus.