



October 2, 2022 | Erwin Ramos

WARM UP QUESTION: What is a common phrase you use?

READ: Exodus 15:22-27

FOCUS: The Lord tests us to show what is in our hearts, to teach us His statutes and to reveal Himself to us.

OBSERVE:

- Times of testing can be really inconvenient and at times, downright painful. It is through these same tests that we are strengthened and encouraged to remain in the will and love of God by following His statutes. Through these times we will be blessed and protected. In a way, you can say it's like following the terms and conditions of the covenant He has made with us to ensure we can continue following through on our end of the bargain because God is always faithful and keeps His covenant despite our faithlessness.
- In the midst of testing what we say and do is determined by what is already in our hearts. If we find bitter words to be the norm during these times what have we allowed to enter our hearts? This is why we should not only guard our hearts but have the Word of God written on the tablet of our hearts so we may not sin against Him. When we fill out hearts with the Word of God, we can exclaim the good, faithful and beautiful nature of God and be a reflection to believers and unbelievers around us.
- Knowing who God intimately will give us peace because we come into a deeper relationship with the One who will bring us through the test. Psalm 23 says that He walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death and in that, we know Him as our companion, and we are, therefore, never alone. How much more would we learn and enjoy the deeper revelations of who God is to us in times of testing if we are full of His word and abide in His love!

REFLECT:

- What steps can you take to prevent bitterness from overflowing from your heart when you're being tested?
- How can you change your current habits to allow time with God and in God's Word to increase?

TAKE ACTION:

- Connect with others by joining a life group so you can grow together as you use God's Word to be a guiding light in times of darkness.

PRAYER:

Dear Father, thank You for the grace to endure these tests in life. It is through them that we grow deeper in love and relationship with You and with one another! Please show us what is in our hearts so that we can be cleansed, be filled with Your Spirit and continue to abide in You. Show us your faithfulness as we grow in you. Your Spirit enables us to discover more of who You are. Give us faith to hold on to your Word during times when it is easy to turn to despair and bitterness and give us a fresh anointing of Your grace to do so. In Jesus's name, we pray, Amen!

