

Case Studies

The children of Israel complained constantly during the exodus from Egypt. But are we any different? We take "the good life" for granted, especially in the western world. We believe that it is our right to have everything, not just our privilege. We expect things, and we are bent out of shape when we don't get what we want. This case study looks first at Israel and then at ourselves. Follow it in order, read the Bible passages that come up, and answer the questions.

Gimme, Gimme, Gimme! **A Case Study in Life's Expectations**

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." – Matthew 5:6.

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" – Matthew 6:25-26.

Problem

1 – Only a few days into the exodus journey, what was Israel's complaint? Exodus 15:22-24.

2 – One month into the journey, what was Israel's complaint? Exodus 16:1-3.



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3 – At the end of the exodus journey, in the 40th year, was the new generation of Israelites any better than their parents? What was their complaint? Numbers 21:4-5.

4 – Did God let Israel starve to death during the exodus? What lesson did He want His people to learn? Deuteronomy 8:2-3.

A Modern Equivalent

Several years ago the food at one of our Bible schools was noticeably substandard. Before the week was half over, a group of young people formed a committee, selected a spokesperson, and complained to the Bible School Committee about it. They drew up a list of the kinds of food they wanted and presented it to the Committee. In the meantime, several of the young people went off campus to get food. This was a violation of Bible school rules.

Questions

- 5 – How about us? Are we any different from the Israelites of old?
- 6 – How many of the students who did not go off campus for food starved to death?
Take a guess!
- 7 – What is the purpose of Bible School anyway?
- 8 – Identify similarities between the conduct of the young people in this case study and that of the Israelites during the exodus.
- 9 – Where do you think the young people got their attitude from?
- 10 – If we are resolved to be different from the average complaining human beings, what kind of attitude must we develop toward life's problems?
- 11 – How did Jesus understand the main issue of this case study? Matthew 4:1-4.