



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

God is Our Rescuer Series, Lesson 7

Lesson Title: A Rescue Plan You Can Count On

Take Home Point: To trust people means that you can count on them.

Warm-Up:

The story is told of a circus performer who claimed he would cross Niagara Falls on a high wire. On the day of his performance, he stood before the people who came to watch and said, "Do you believe I can do this?" The excited crowd roared, "YES!" With that, the acrobat carefully and steadily walked the wire across the falls and back. The crowd cheered his success. Then he asked them, "Do you believe I could carry a person on my back across the falls?" "YES!" the crowd roared again. "Do I have any volunteers?" Ooo, silence. Although they saw the acrobat do it, none were willing to trust him with their life.

Read: Exodus 16

Observation (What happened?):

Who were the Israelites really grumbling against?

What was required of the Israelites in order for them to eat?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think the Israelites grumbled about a lack of food so quickly after seeing God's miraculous rescue at the Red Sea?

What was God teaching the Israelites by how often they had to gather their food?

Insight:

Did God deliver ready-to-eat manna as the people sat at their tables? Of course not. They had to gather what he provided. This was an important lesson for the Israelites and for us as well. A friend of mine once said that what we really want is a "Bic" God who "works the first time every time" just to satisfy our needs. The Israelites were no different. It may seem a silly question, but why did God require them to gather the manna they ate? For the same reason he asks us to pray when he knows what we need and why he tells us to deliver his message of rescue to the world. Our actions put "feet to our faith." We exhibit belief by acting on God's promises. That strengthens our faith and opens the door for God to teach us of his care, his unfailing personal presence, and his desire for us to be a partner in accomplishing his work on earth.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What are you grumbling about in your life right now? Who are you really grumbling against?

Take a few minutes to walk around your house and thank God for providing what you see. Be specific in your prayer. Sometime this week, do the same in another part of your life – family, friends, work, church, etc.