**THE EXODUS IS NOT A PROBEM FREE JOURNEY.**

**Slide 1**

Exodus 16:3 “If only the LORD had killed us back in Egypt,” they moaned. “There we sat around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death.” (NLT)

**Slide 2**

*Exodus 16 is about one of faith’s unhappier surprises; namely, getting saved does not necessarily mean that all difficulty evaporates.* Scott Hoezee

**Slide 3**

Exodus 16:4-5 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Look, I’m going to rain down food from heaven for you. Each day the people can go out and pick up as much food as they need for that day. I will test them in this to see whether or not they will follow my instructions. 5 On the sixth day they will gather food, and when they prepare it, there will be twice as much as usual.” (NLT)

**Slide 4**

When God ‘tests’ us, … He does so by bringing us into situations which call for trust and the endurance and obedience that proves our trust is real, so that by the exercise of faith in the face of new challenges, our trust in him can develop and mature until we come to see that everything that happens to us is under divine supervision and is brimful of divine purposes for good.

**Slide 5**

God is a loving Father who works everything, even our complaints into good.

**Slide 6**

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. (NLT)

**Slide 7**

Exodus 16:9-10 Then Moses said to Aaron, “Announce this to the entire community of Israel: ‘Present yourselves before the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” 10 And as Aaron spoke to the whole community of Israel, they looked out toward the wilderness. There they could see the awesome glory of the LORD in the cloud.

**Slide 8**

*God faces the people eastward, not westward back toward Egypt. He turns their faces east toward the wilderness, and it is there that they see the glory of Yahweh!* Scott Hoezee

**Slide 9**

Colossians 3:1-4 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. 2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. 3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. (NLT)

**Slide 10**

The cross is that quirky ray of glory that shines in the middle of this world’s multiple wildernesses of hurt and sin and suffering. The cross is simultaneously the worst thing that ever happened and yet also a focal point for hope. The cross is that glory in the wilderness which properly prevents believers from responding to suffering by flippantly saying, “Oh well, it really doesn’t matter,” even as it also prevents us from dumping faith because of suffering by saying, “To hell with this Christian stuff — if God were real, none of this unhappiness would happen.” Scott Hoezee