

Living “In Between:” — Coping With Scarcity
Numbers 20:1-13
Pastor Dave Bennett

Introduction

- Psalm 42:1,2; John 19:28

1. The temptations of scarcity

- A. People look for someone to blame
- B. People long for the good old days
- C. Leaders lose patience
 - Exodus 17:1-7
- D. Leaders lose perspective

2. Points to ponder

- A. God is our provider, even in the desert, so it is never time to panic or complain or disobey
 - 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:6-11
 - Matthew 6:8,25-34; 7:7-11
- B. God is the provider, even when he uses a human instrument so we must never take the for credit for ourselves
 - Romans 10:12-15; John 3:28-30

Daily Bible Readings
November 16-22

Follow-Throughs

Monday Psalm 42:1-11

How thirsty are you for God today? In what ways can hard times draw us closer to the Lord? What aspects of scarcity are you experiencing in your own life right now? What is your response revealing about the condition of your heart?

Tuesday Psalm 22:1-31

When on the cross, Jesus said, “I thirst” (John 19:28), it was an echo of the suffering described in Psalm 22 (note verse 15). What different aspects of suffering are described in Psalm 22? With what expressions of confidence does the psalm end? Which phrase from this psalm can you meditate on today?

Wednesday 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:6-15

In what ways were the Christians at Macedonia examples of enthusiastic and generous giving? What encouragements does Paul give to believers who are going through times of scarcity themselves? Take a few moments to pray and to invite God to examine your own attitudes toward giving.

Thursday Matthew 6:19-34; Matthew 7:7-11

What does Jesus say about how we should respond in times of economic crisis? What areas of scarcity do you need to bring to your heavenly Father today in prayer? What are the implications for you **today** of seeking **first** God’s kingdom and his righteousness?

Friday John 3:22-36

In what ways could the ministry of Jesus have aroused jealousy in John the Baptist? How did John the Baptist see himself in relationship to Jesus? In what ways are your words and your actions pointing others to Jesus? In what ways are you tempted to take for yourself credit that really belongs to God? Ask the Lord to show you any ways where you are getting in the way of others seeing Jesus.

Warm-Ups

Saturday Numbers 20:14 – 21:3

What difficulties and disappointments did the nation of Israel face during this period? What evidences were there of God’s concern and provision for them, even during these times? In what ways can you see God’s hand of grace in your own life?

Sunday Numbers 21:4-9

How does this passage illustrate both the severity of God’s holy judgment on sin, and his gracious provision of rescue? Praise God for both aspects of his nature as you prepare for worship today. response? Why was this such a serious matter for God? Pray that the Lord would give you his perspective to see the importance of complete obedience.

