

LET ME NOT SEE MY WRETCHEDNESS

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~ We were hanging around the mixed multitude as we completed the last leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God, and they were complaining about all the things they missed back in Egypt. We left them in a very bad state because the complaining and murmuring had spread throughout the entire camp. Well, that's going to bring us to a lesson in this report that is so far from the accepted practices of mainstream religion that I have NEVER heard this sermon preached and I have NEVER heard this taught before ANYWHERE before – and I suspect neither have you - except from my teacher, Dr. J Vernon McGee.

These hangers-on who are always bringing up the rear are always the first to complain. Just a few complainers can always spoil an entire group - and it can easily spoil a church. Some are everlastingly whining and complaining because they belong to the mixed multitude. Our last report received confirmation that these people had “fell a lusting” - and wept again, looking back to Egypt and asking for flesh to eat. This mixed-up bunch was an infection spreading on the skin of the nation Israel like a contagious cancer and, ultimately, it affected the entire camp. The whole nation was weeping before long; all it took was to be reminded of what they didn't have and they – well – they ALL lusted after it....

XI

5 We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

~ With the exception of the fish, the food they say they missed had no nutritional value whatsoever. I don't think health was exactly what they wanted from the fish, though – I think they just wanted flesh to eat. The manna could have been made to the same taste and texture, but the mixed multitude just couldn't convince themselves it was good enough. Maybe it

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required more work? This list is all condiments; generally designed to accompany other foods and make them tastier. Well, their garlick and onions had made them quite unattractive, and I think God had intentionally taken that away from them. An apple a day will keep the doctor away; but an onion a day will keep just about everybody away! Garlick will drive away the rest of the community. All of these things that the mixed multitude loved grew on the ground or in the ground because the mixed multitude loved earthy things....

6 But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.

~ So, the Lord has given Israel this miraculous manna and, of course, they all complain about it; because it's not the thing they demanded. They want it all. Well, the Holy Spirit interludes with this second Scriptural manna descriptor. It's as if the Spirit of God asks,"THIS is what you are complaining about?" Manna was not monotonous food, and a steady diet of it kept them perfectly healthy in the wilderness. We examined the manna thoroughly in chapter sixteen of Exodus. The Bible says their feet didn't swell in the desert which means Manna had all the vitamins and nutrients human's need to sustain life; this was God's food and, of course, it speaks of Christ and the Word of God that reveals Christ.

Many people despise Christ for the love of things of the world. That's the lesson in this passage. How do you feel about God? A lot of people don't like manna, and even more don't like Bible study. The largest segment of the church just won't go for an educated, sincere and systematic examination of the Word of God. They're not interested. That is the predicament of the church today – and a complete and total ignorance of the Word of God is the number one problem they face. They're feeding somewhere else but making side dishes of the manna, or they exclude it altogether. They'll have anything except what God has provided. This gets a little personal, doesn't it? ~

7 And the manna was as coriander seed, and the colour thereof as the colour of bdellium.

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8 And the people went about, and gathered it, and ground it in mills, or beat it in a mortar, and baked it in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil.

9 And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it.

10 Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.

11 And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?

12 Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers?

13 Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat.

14 I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me.

~ Old man Moses is getting a little impatient and tired now. The questions Moses asks and the statements he makes seem as if he is complaining a little. Well, the fact is, he's complaining bitterly. What we see is the normal, natural and plain human being Moses was. This is the man who was mightily used of God, friends. He kept his life real before the Lord. Moses is saying he would rather be dead than go through the trouble he was going through. The children of Israel were very, very difficult to deal with at this time. Many pastors have ulcers, get stressed out totally, and some ultimately leave the ministry, because they complain to the Lord that the

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burden is too great! They get weary of hearing the criticism and the heresy, so, they stop teaching and preaching....

15 And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.

16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.

~ Alright, this is a serious mistake by Moses in complaining as he did to God. Moses resented that he was chosen to bear all the problems of his people - but he wasn't bearing them. The Lord was bearing the people, and the Lord was bearing Moses, too! God never asked or commanded Moses to bear the burdens of the people. No, the problem was that Moses was not fully cast upon God as he should have been. So, God provides Moses some assistance; and God is patient and gracious as He does it. The other problem is these seventy men who are appointed will carry down through the centuries as the Sanhedrin, the religious committee that will later decide to reject the Messiah and murder Jesus.

I don't think Moses should have brought about the need for this organization, personally; although it does seem as if it were done inadvertently. That should tell us something profound about potential consequences of what we complain about in our lives. The church today multiplies committees and organizations and believes that the right method will solve all the problems, but it has failed for decades and longer - and they keep doing those same things. The last thing this world needs today is another church. We have established so many little Sanhedrin sub stations in the form of religious organizations throughout the world today that the individual searching for answers in life will no longer bear sound doctrine....

17 And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

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~ God called Moses, so God says He will provide the strength for Moses to do his commandments and will. God never asks us to do more than He will provide for us to do. If you feel overworked or if you feel like you are doing too much, then you probably are! You're likely doing more than God wants you to do and maybe nothing that God wants you to do, too, by the way! God will not overburden the man or woman who is serving Him correctly....

18 And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat.

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Psalm 106: And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul
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~ They wanted flesh – and they got it – and it stuck in their throats and they choked on it. The Lord heard their complaint, and He answered the request. I imagine very few people noticed that God had sent leanness to their souls. Every prayer we make to God should be made in thanksgiving; because God is going to hear it and answer it. Usually He says no – to me, anyways. I suppose I am asking for all the wrong things. I'm sure no is probably the best answer God can give me most of the time. There are instances where God grants our requests, though. When it is like the murmuring and complaining request, as the mixed multitude requested, then God sends leanness to your soul with it! We get what we pray for, and it's not always the best thing for us. I think this happens more often than we realize....

19 Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days;

20 But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the LORD which is

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among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?

21 And Moses said, The people, among whom I am, are six hundred thousand footmen; and thou hast said, I will give them flesh, that they may eat a whole month.

22 Shall the flocks and the herds be slain for them, to suffice them? or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to suffice them?

~ Of course, Moses asks "how?" Well, if God said He will do it, He is going to do it – we don't need to worry about how. God says He reaps where He hath not sown; that means He reaps where YOU hath not sown, either. That also means He does it His way – in His timing....

23 And the LORD said unto Moses, Is the LORD'S hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not.

24 And Moses went out, and told the people the words of the LORD, and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and set them round about the tabernacle.

25 And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.

26 But there remained two of the men in the camp, the name of the one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad: and the spirit rested upon them; and they were of them that were written, but went not out unto the tabernacle: and they prophesied in the camp.

27 And there ran a young man, and told Moses, and said, Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp.

28 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them.

~ God added more machinery with the seventy elders, but He didn't add any more spiritual power. So, the net sum total was zero; possibly negated as the same Spirit was divided. Well, Joshua was for Moses and Joshua was loyal to Moses. This is a very wonderful chapter from the Word of God. This reveals there wasn't a single jealous bone in the body of Moses. These others were able to prophesy, and Moses was able to continue on with them. There are, actually, three great sins in any ministry. 1. Laziness 2. Jealousy 3. Boredom. Some of us are guilty of all three, but Moses was guilty of none of them....

29 And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the LORD'S people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!

30 And Moses gat him into the camp, he and the elders of Israel.

31 And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth.

32 And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp.

~ Well, it would seem it doesn't get any better than quail on toast with a little side of manna. People today develop some "meaty" Bible theory that is usually more of a "meathead" theory - but they sprinkle a little Jesus in to make it sound nice and feel good. These people didn't have cold storage in the wilderness, so they had to cook all this up immediately. And cook it they did. They lusted after the other and despised the manna. God judged those things, my friends – and He still does! Paul said if we would judge

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ourselves, we would not be judged by the law. If we don't judge ourselves, we will be judged – it's pretty easy to understand. Well, a great many people were slain that day....

33 And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague.

34 And he called the name of that place Kibrothhattaavah: because there they buried the people that lusted.

35 And the people journeyed from Kibrothhattaavah unto Hazeroth; and abode at Hazeroth.

XXII

1 And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

~ So, we're going to move out and march with the children of Israel from Hazeroth and, along the way, Aaron, the high priest, and Miriam, Moses' sister, have some murmuring of their own to do. This is also an interesting revelation because I don't think this wife of Moses is the daughter of the Midianite; in fact, I know it isn't. This is some other woman that Moses took, apparently. Moses home life is never addressed in the Word of God at all. We know so little about it that I have to suspect it was very unhappy. Of course, this makes a great occasion for jealousy to break through from Aaron and Miriam. Well, Miriam is big sister to Moses. She watched him float away in the basket that day and followed the little pathetic thing right to the bulrushes. Miriam thinks to herself that Moses wouldn't even be around today if it weren't for her – and that's probably true....

2 And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.

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3 (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)

4 And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out.

5 And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth.

6 And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.

7 My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.

~ Meekness is not weakness - and Moses was a very meek and very strong man. We see him being obedient to the Lord his God and doing His will. Moses just happens to be a little greater than the prophets, and God deals with him a little differently. In fact, God is dealing with Moses directly and in a way that He does not deal with anyone else that I can locate in the Old Testament. God appeared to Abraham in dreams and to Joseph in dreams, but God dealt with Moses up close and personal; face to Face and fully aware and cognizant. God chooses all the prophets, but Moses is different....

8 With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

9 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed.

10 And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.

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11 And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned.

12 Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb.

13 And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee.

14 And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again.

15 And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again.

16 And afterward the people removed from Hazeroth, and pitched in the wilderness of Paran ~

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