

Further Meditation on these Gospel Pictures

Jesus did not Give in to Evil Desires (Matthew 4:1-11)

➤ **Into the Wilderness** (v.1)

“Then Jesus was *led up by the Spirit into the wilderness* to be tempted by the devil.” (Cf. Heb. 5:7-8)

➤ **Hunger** (2-4; Deut. 8:3)

➤ **Protection**; “pinnacle of the temple” (5-7)

➤ **Authority/Worship** (8-10)

Turn from Your Cravings/“Evil Desires”

1 Peter 2:11

Beloved, I urge you as *sojourners* and exiles to *abstain from the passions of the flesh*, which *wage war against your soul*.

Jesus is Our Spiritual Food & Drink (John 6:35-65)

John 6:55-58, 63-64

⁵⁵ For *my flesh is true food*, and *my blood is true drink*. ⁵⁶ *Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him*. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so *whoever feeds on me*, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸ *This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.*”

⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. *The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life*. ⁶⁴ But *there are some of you who do not believe.*”

Key Idea:

Entrust yourself to Jesus and live or choose to think you can do better... and die.

In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#12 in Series] *The Journey of Rebellion* – Numbers 11:1-14:45

Part 2, Graves of Craving

Sermon Outline – June 14, 2015

Children’s Sermon/Introduction

❖ **Doubting God’s Goodness is as Old as Eden**

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent ... said to the woman, “*Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?*”

❖ **Do you think the serpent did not really know that Adam and Eve could eat from any tree except the tree of Good & Evil?**

❖ **Why do you think he asked that question?**

❖ **Do you ever feel like God’s rules are getting in the way of some good thing you want?**

❖ **What “good thing” do you think Adam & Eve wanted when they ate the forbidden fruit?**

Key Idea:

To choose our own cravings over God’s provision is to dig our own graves.

BIG PICTURE: OUR REAL ENEMY

NUMBERS 1-10:10 – GETTING READY TO GO...

NUMBERS 10:11-36 – SETTING OUT FOR THE LAND, LED BY THE LORD

THE JOURNEY OF REBELLION FROM SINAI TO KADESH (11-14)

A. THREE COMPLAINTS (11-12)

1. COMPLAINTS ABOUT HARDSHIP (11:1-3) – WE CRAVE EASY

2. COMPLAINTS ABOUT FOOD (11:4-35) – WE CRAVE THE GOOD LIFE NOW

IF ONLY WE HAD MEAT! (4-9)

MOSES COMPLAINS ABOUT THE COMPLAINTS (10-15) – MOSES CRAVES GOD’S HELP

GOD RESPONDS TO THE FIRST TWO COMPLAINTS (16-23)

SEVENTY ELDERS ANOINTED (24-30)

QUAIL & PLAGUE (31-35)

3. MIRIAM AND AARON COMPLAIN ABOUT MOSES (12:1-16)

ISRAEL REJECTS THE PROMISED LAND (13-14)

The Journey of Evil Desires... #2 Cravings

Notes:

1 Corinthians 10:5-6

...with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶ Now *these*

things took place as examples for us, that we might not **desire evil** as they did. ...

Discontentment is a Rejection of God's Provision (11:4-35)

If Only we had Meat! (4-9)

- Comparison with **Exodus 15-16** (Red Sea)
 - No Water (Bitter Water); No Food...
 - **Will God Provide?** (...*Quail & Manna*)
- **Now** in the Journey away from Sinai...
 - They have Drink & Manna from God
 - **Is God's Food Good Enough?**

⁴ Now *the rabble* that was among them had *a strong craving*. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, "*Oh that we had meat to eat!*" ⁵ *We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic.* ⁶ *But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.*"

- Is Israel forgetting a few details?!

3rd Picture:

Being ruled by their craving for meat, **the Israelites** became fools; forgetting God's deliverance and rejecting His provisions & promises.

Psalm 78:11–19

¹¹ They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them. ¹² In the sight of their fathers he performed wonders in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan. ¹³ He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap. ¹⁴ In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light. ¹⁵ He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. ¹⁶ He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers. ¹⁷ Yet they sinned still more against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert. ¹⁸ *They tested God in their heart by demanding the food they craved.* ¹⁹ They spoke **against God**, saying, "*Can God spread*

Notes:

a table in the wilderness?"

Notes:

Graves of Cravings (16-35)

¹⁶ Then the Lord said to **Moses**, "Gather for me *seventy men* of the elders of Israel..."

¹⁸ And say to **the people**, "Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and *you shall eat meat*, for you have wept in the hearing of the Lord, saying, "Who will give us meat to eat? For *it was better for us in Egypt.*"..."

²⁵ Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of *the Spirit* that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, *they prophesied*. But they did not continue doing it.

³¹ Then *a wind* from the Lord sprang up, and it brought *quail* from the sea and let them fall beside the camp...

Psalm 78:21–31

²¹ Therefore, when the Lord heard, he was full of wrath; a fire was kindled against Jacob; his anger rose against Israel, ²² because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power. ... ²⁷ he rained meat on them like dust... ²⁹ And they ate and were well filled, for *he gave them what they craved*. ³⁰ But before they had satisfied their craving, while the food was still in their mouths, ³¹ the anger of God rose against them, and *he killed the strongest of them* and laid low the young men of Israel.

Deuteronomy 8:3 (LEB)

And [the LORD] *humbled you* and *let you go hungry*, and *then he fed you* with that which you did not know nor did your ancestors know, **in order to make you know** that *not by bread alone but by all that goes out of the mouth of Yahweh mankind shall live*.

- **Numbers 11:34 – Kibroth-hattaavah**
(Graves of Craving)

Key Idea:

Trust God and live or choose to think you can do better... and die.