

Trust God's Plan, Talk to Him about your Worries

1 Peter 5:6–7

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that *at the proper time he may exalt you*, ⁷ *casting all your anxieties on him*, because **he cares for you**.

Take Your Even Your Despair to God

Psalm 88 (Cf. Psalm 22)

¹ **O Lord, God of my salvation**; I cry out day and night before you. ² Let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry! ³ For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. ⁴ I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am a man who has no strength, ⁵ like one set loose among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand. ⁶ You have put me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep. ⁷ Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves. ... ¹³ But I, O Lord, cry to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you. ¹⁴ O Lord, why do you cast my soul away? Why do you hide your face from me? ¹⁵ Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am helpless. ¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me; your dreadful assaults destroy me. ¹⁷ They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in on me together. ¹⁸ You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me; my companions have become darkness.

Key Idea:

Trusting Jesus through the hardest times means bringing our complaints and questions directly to Him. His tender care for us through and in the trials reveals His steadfast love to us like nothing else can.

Psalm 89:1

I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#11 in the Series] *The Journey of Rebellion: Part 1*,

Saved from Evil Desires – Numbers 11:1– 14:45

Sermon Outline – June 7, 2015

Children's Sermon/Introduction

❖ Pay Close Attention to the Commands of the LORD

Numbers 9:23

At the command of the Lord they camped, and *at the command of the Lord* they set out. **They kept the charge** of the Lord, *at the command of the Lord* by Moses.

1 Peter 2:13–14, 16–17

¹³ **Be subject for the Lord's sake** to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ... ¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but **living as servants of God**. ¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

❖ How You Treat People is How You are Treating God

Notes:

Transition...

Perfect preparation and a good beginning were not enough for Israel... nor is it enough for us...
(We all need Jesus)

1 Corinthians 10:1–10

¹ For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and **all ate the same spiritual food**, ⁴ and all **drank the same spiritual drink**. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, 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**. ⁷ **Do not...**¹⁰ ...**grumble**, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.

The Journey of *Evil Desires*...

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 (11:1– 14:45)

A. THREE COMPLAINTS (11:1–12)

1. COMPLAINTS ABOUT HARDSHIP (11:1-3)

2. COMPLAINTS ABOUT FOOD (11:4-35)

IF ONLY WE HAD MEAT! (4-9)

MOSES COMPLAINS ABOUT THE COMPLAINTS (10-15)

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)

The *Heat* of the Wilderness March (11:1-3)

Israel's Heart is Revealed

¹ And the people complained in the hearing of the Lord about their *misfortunes* (evil, distress, misery, injury, calamity)...

Psalm 34:8–10

⁸ Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! *Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!* ⁹ Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! ¹⁰ The young lions suffer want and hunger; *but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.*

- God is Leading Israel (with Glory & Clarity)
- God is Feeding Israel

What Evil Desire Do We See in Israel?

- They want the path to be **easy**...
 - They do not trust God... (Sin makes you **stupid**)
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- Complaining communicates that you think you could do better...
 - **Believing is seeing**...

God Reveals His Just Judgment & Kind Mercy

...and when the Lord heard it, his anger was kindled, and the *fire of the Lord burned* among them and consumed some outlying parts of the camp. ² Then the people *cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the Lord*, and the fire died down. ... (Burning)

Notes:

1st Picture:

Israel's quickness to complain reveals a heart that demands an easy path and rejects God's leadership *but* when they cry out to their God given mediator they are rescued from God's fiery judgment.

Craving Different Food (11:4-35)

Moses' Complaint is Answered with Mercy (Numbers 11:10-30)

What did Moses complain about? (11:10-15)

Did God get angry with Moses? (11:16-23)

Why did God anoint seventy elders with the same Spirit He had given Moses? (11:24-30)

2nd Picture:

Even Moses needs a mediator.

What Evil Desire Do We See in Moses? **Despair**

1. Moses isn't Jesus, He Points to Jesus

Deuteronomy 18:15

"The Lord your God will raise up for you *a prophet like me* from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—

Hebrews 3:3 "*Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses*"

2. Moses Takes His Complaint to **God**

3. Moses Has Jesus to **Pray** for Him!

Romans 8:34

Who is to condemn? *Christ Jesus* is the one *who died*—more than that, *who was raised*—*who is at the right hand of God*, who indeed is *interceding for us*.

Further Meditation on these Gospel Pictures

Don't Expect this Life to be Easy

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*.

Notes: