

Numbers 11:4-5

Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic

Would you rather talk up close, face to face with someone who smelled like leeks, onions, and garlic, or whose breath smelled like milk and honey?

While you are thinking about that, remember that God had promised the Children of Israel a land of Milk and Honey

† **Leviticus 20:24** *But I have said to you, "You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey." I am the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples.*

But in today's verse, we see that the Children of Israel wanted to go back to Egypt, which in the Bible represents the world. And not only back to Egypt (the world), but also to all that old stinky food (lifestyle). *We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic.*

But that's what sin is, it's stinky, or as the King James puts it, it "stinketh".

The Bible also gives us another word picture of how stinky sin is.

† **2 Peter 2:22** *But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."*

Stinky dog vomit and smelly pigs in the mire (Sorry if you are eating right now). But that's just a glimpse of how stinky and disgusting sin is in God's eyes. And do you really want to go back to leeks, onions and garlic after tasting milk and honey?

† **Psalms 119:103** *How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

So why would the Children of Israel want to go back to Egypt instead of moving forward to what God had for them? I think part of the answer is in the first sentence of today's verse.

† *Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving*

The mixed multitude, who is that?

Well, when the Children of Israel left Egypt, some of the Egyptians actually went with them.

† **Exodus 12:37-38 (NLT2)** *That night the people of Israel left Rameses and started for Succoth. There were about 600,000 men, plus all the women and children. A rabble of non-Israelites went with them, along with great flocks and herds of livestock.*

So those who were not true believers, or Israelites, mixed in amongst the Children of Israel, and we see the results in today's verse, and that was complaining and wanting their old lifestyle.

The same is true for us as Christians. Now if you are a believer, you can't, and shouldn't, move away from your family members who are not believers. But you can choose who you hang with, as well as who you choose to be close friends with.

Do you have a mixed set of friends, and do some of those friends entice you to do things that you know are wrong to do? Even your family can entice you to stray just a little, simply because they want the old you, because they are still in Egypt and want you there too. They still have the stinky breath of onions, leeks and garlic.

Now you can choose to speak their language, and live like them and go back to smelling like onions, leeks and garlic. Or, you can breathe on them the sweetness of the word, which smells like milk and honey, and offer it to them, letting them know how much better it is.

Some people like the smell of onions, leeks and garlic, and may refuse your offer of milk and honey. But they won't know unless you do offer it. The choice is yours.

† **1 Peter 2:2-3** *as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

† **Proverbs 16:24** *Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.*