

Numbers 11:4-6

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; but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!"

There is a very important part to these verses that if you read through it too fast, or just skim over it, you can totally miss what is going on.

The scene: The children of Israel are taken out of slavery that they were in, in Egypt. They have seen the Lord part the Red Sea and destroy their enemies. They have also seen the Lord supply living water to them from a rock. They were hungry and the Lord supplied them with Manna to eat.

Now the important part in verse 4, which is, *"Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving"*

Did you catch it? *"the mixed multitude who were among them"*

What does that mean? Well, if you will remember the story, right before the children of Israel were set free, God destroyed all the first born males of those in Egypt. But there were those who were not the first born (born second, third, fourth etc.) who had survived. Some of these people had joined the children of Israel when they departed from Egypt and went into the wilderness. Now here in the wilderness, there were not only the children of Israel, but also Egyptians as well as other people possibly from other countries with them. Those who were not the children of Israel were the ones who started complaining and craving the things that they used to have in Egypt (Egypt represents the world). *"Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving"*

So what does that have to do with us?

Think about the people you hang out with, whether it is co-workers or neighbors or even old friends who are not Christians. They soon will complain about what they don't have; and as you sit there listening to them, you start to think about your old lifestyle and the things you used to have. Now not only are they complaining, but so are you. So you come to God and start crying out because of what you don't have that you think you need. But you better watch out, because God just may give you what you are crying about.

† **Num 11:18-20** *Then you shall 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 well with us in Egypt." Therefore the LORD will give you meat, and you shall eat. You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, but for a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to*

you, because you have despised the LORD who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, "Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?" ' ' "

You think the world has it better, go ahead and live like the world. But when you do and have the things that they do, it will make you sick to your stomach, because you will realize that what the Lord has provided (Manna) which is better for you than what the world is offering.

What has the Lord provided you with now?

What are you craving after, that you used to have or that you used to do?

Think about it!

† **Psalm 37:16** *A little that a righteous man has Is better than the riches of many wicked.*

† **Psalm 63:3** *Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.*