

Numbers 11:4

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?"

When you read the account of God leading the Children of Israel out of Egypt into the Promised Land, did you realize that when they left Egypt, they did not go alone, but some of the Egyptians and possible those who lived in Egypt that moved there from other countries went with them? We read about it in today's verses, and also right when they left Egypt in the book of Exodus.

† **Exodus 12:37-38** *Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds--a great deal of livestock.*

But did you notice what it said about this mixed multitude? "***Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving***"

"Are we there yet?"

"I'm hungry."

"Tell her to stop touching me"

Things we all have heard going on a road trip with the kids, or maybe you even can relate to them when you were a kid, saying the same things. But like this mixed multitude, all it was, was them whining and complaining, and what was the result of this? "***so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat?"***" Simply it caused them to whine and complain as well.

But then there are those in the church who are the mixed multitude. These are the unsaved and those who have no real relationship with the Lord. They just go to church on Sunday, but that's the extent of their walk with the Lord. This mixed multitude in the church are usually the whiners and complainers, or they at least start it. And once they do, it affects the believers and who will join in with them, whining and complaining as well. We should not listen to these people or follow what they say, in fact, we should be silencing them, because if we don't, the complaints will penetrate the church like a cancer or leaven and will cause divisions and strife, and it has even gone as far as church splits to even church closures.

But why were they complaining and whining? Because as we read, this mixed multitude "***yielded to intense craving***" or think of it as the yielded to their flesh and not the things of God.

Paul addressed this with the Galatians when he said:

† **Galatians 5:16-18 & 26** *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and*

*these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

There will always be a battle against the spirit and the flesh until we go to heaven, and part of that battle that the enemy (satan) uses, is the mixed multitude to try and make us fall back into the flesh with their whining and complaining. Notice the last thing Paul said to the Galatians, “***Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.***” The mixed multitude in the church or even amongst your mixed friends (Christian and non Christian) are the ones who are “***conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.***”

The bible tells us to, “***Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD. Don’t touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you.***” 2 Corinthians 6:17 (NLT2)

Simply those who are causing division and strive need to be confronted for the protection of the church, as well as our own walk with the Lord. So for some of you, there are those friends that you just need to, “***separate yourselves from***”. It’s not because you think that you are better than them, but simply you do not need that type of cancer or leaven to penetrate your life and the life of your family, or the church, just like the Children of Israel did not need them either, because it made their walk with the Lord frustrating instead of fantastic.

- † **Joshua 23:7-8 (NLT2)** *Make sure you do not associate with the other people still remaining in the land. Do not even mention the names of their gods, much less swear by them or serve them or worship them. Rather, cling tightly to the LORD your God as you have done until now.*
- † **Proverbs 20:19** *He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; Therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.*
- † **Psalm 89:15** *Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance.*
- † **Colossians 2:6-7** *As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.*