

Psalm 106:24-25

Then they despised the pleasant land; They did not believe His word, But complained in their tents, And did not heed the voice of the LORD.

Today's verses are from Psalm 106, which talk about the children of Israel and how the Lord had delivered them from the oppression they were in, in Egypt. Also, how they went back and forth with their relationship with the Lord for forty years in the wilderness, as we read more of this Psalm.

† **Psalm 106:12-15** *Then they believed His words; They sang His praise. They soon forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel, But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, And tested God in the desert. And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.*

This portion that we just read is referring to when God parted the Red Sea, and how the waters covered their enemies, and the response was ***“Then they believed His words; They sang His praise.”*** But then when you read the next sentence it says that ***“They soon forgot His works.”***

It goes on to say that ***“They did not wait for His counsel, But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, And tested God in the desert. And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.”*** When we read that, we read that God tested them and He also gave them what they wanted ***“He gave them their request”*** but even though they had the physical things they lusted after, the result was that they also now had ***“leanness into their soul”*** or as the Message bible puts it, ***“He gave them exactly what they asked for— but along with it they got an empty heart.”***

Don't we sometimes feel like we have a leanness to our soul, or that our hearts feel empty? Usually when we do, the truth is that we are in some sort of sin, as we are lusting after the things of this world, so much so that we start to despise the blessings of the Lord, because we would rather have things of the flesh. That's what today's verse is talking about when it says that ***“Then they despised the pleasant land; They did not believe His word.”***

Sure, we have salvation, but it seems we want more, even the Israelites lusted after the things that they used to have in Egypt.

† **Numbers 11:5** *We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic;*

Fish mixed with leeks, onions, and garlic? Talk about having bad breath. Yet that was what they were lusting after, and they despised God's great provision of Manna, which was sweet and tasty.

† **Exodus 16:31** *And the house of Israel called its name Manna. And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.*

I mean, really? What would you rather have, stinky fish covered in onions and garlic, or sweet honey wafers to eat? But sin causes us to want the bad things in life instead of the good things God has provided us with, and when we do, that's when we live the second half of today's verse which says, "***But complained in their tents, And did not heed the voice of the LORD.***"

We have all complained to the Lord before, but do we realize that when we do, we are complaining because we want our old stinky lifestyle that we used to have, that smells like fish and onions and garlic, and despising the goodness of God's word and provision that is sweet like honey.

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

† **Deuteronomy 8:3 (NLT2)** *Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.*