



Out of the Wilderness | 1 Corinthians 10; Numbers 13-14

As we begin this new study from 1 Corinthians 10, take a few minutes and read through verses 1-13. Look at the previous context in chapter 9. Paul's interest is in helping the Corinthian believers (who lived in a culture much like our own:

sexually charged, litigious, religiously pluralistic) experience the life that God has "saved" them for. He reviews the history of Israel as a mirror for us to gaze into so that we would see ourselves in their temptations and trials.

In what ways can you relate to the people of Israel?

READ/REFLECT

"Milk and honey" was a phrase that was used to talk about the plentiful provision that would come in the promised land. However, this new land was far from a "paradise" and the "milk and honey" were dependent on plentiful rainfall which was never guaranteed. The presence of rain was part of the covenant God had made with his people. If they trusted and obeyed, there would be rain. If they didn't, rain would be withheld. So, the overflowing provisions were dependent upon a trusting, loving walk with God.

How does this relate to the "abundant life" that we are promised in Christ? (cf. John 10:10)

Summarize or read back through portions of Numbers 13/14

The twelve spies (Numbers 13) ended up in a group of 10 and a group of 2 ... and both groups had very different views of the promised land after "spying it out." What was the difference in their views?

How can you relate to the group of 10? In what ways are you holding on to "old stories" about how life works? (relating our identity to "what we do or what we have or what others think of us")

How do you see yourself in the responses of wanting to go back to Egypt?

What stands out about Joshua and Caleb's response?

We all live by faith in something (whether the truth of who God is OR old stories about how life works). How can you begin to uncover and address the faith you place in old stories?

How can you increase Christ as the object of your faith so that He is bigger in your heart than the old stories?

What bold decision do you need to make?

RESPOND

What specifically will you take away from this passage? How and when will you apply that truth?

REACH OUT in prayer

Ask each person in the group to share how others can pray for them to apply these truths to their lives.