



DON'T WASTE YOUR WILDERNESS

Deadly Distractions

September 17, 2023 Message Notes

TEXT: NUMBERS 10-14, HEBREWS 3:19

Unbelief makes a mess and threatens our opportunity to experience the promises of God. How does God help our unbelief? He may give us a test, but not to fail us. Testing circumstances put the squeeze on so we can see what's on the inside.

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NOTES

FOMO – Fear Of Missing Out

Can my being distracted by FOMO cost me my best life from God?

Unbelief...stiff-necked, disobedience, contempt, testing the Lord.

“Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the Tent of Meeting to all the Israelites. The Lord said to Moses, ‘How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in men, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them? I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they.’”

Numbers 14:10-12

“The Egyptians will hear about it...”

Numbers 14:13

“Now may the Lord’s strength be displayed... ‘The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished...’ Forgive the sins of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now.”

Numbers 14:17-19

“The Lord replied, ‘I have forgiven them, as you asked. Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times – not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.’”

Numbers 14:20-23

The number 10 represents completeness.

- 10 plagues in Egypt exposed the falseness of their gods
- 10 commandments introduced God’s character and the values that define Him.

10 times the Israelites completely blew it with their disobedience, unbelief.

The human condition is a sin problem.

Sins are the symptoms. Sin is the cause.

Sins are the pollution. Sin is the factory.

Sins are the spider web. Sin is the spider.

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The “*Imago Dei*”, divine image, from which we come is reflected in our intelligence, gifts, skills, problem-solving, decision-making, engineering genius, tenacity, moral imagination, relational passion, and the ability to love and be loved authentically and intimately.

The fly in the ointment, the kink in the hose, the virus in the hard drive is that there also seems to be another intelligence vying to be heard - a kind of invisible, artificial intelligence that feels real but isn’t always the most right.

They're out of Egypt but Egypt is not out of them. They show it in their behaviors.

“Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the Lord...”

Numbers 11:1

They “began to crave other food and again the Israelites started wailing, ‘If only we had meat to eat!’”

Numbers 11:4

“Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses... ‘Has the Lord only spoken through Moses?’”

Numbers 12:1-2

“The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size...We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

Numbers 13:32-33

“That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud...grumbled against Moses and Aaron and said, ‘If only we had died in Egypt...’”

Numbers 14:1-3

“We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”

Numbers 14:4

God has counted to 10 in their resistance and complaining. Now he holds them accountable and brings justice.

“I will do to you the very things I heard you say; in this desert your bodies will fall, every one of you twenty years old or more who were counted in the census and who has grumbled against me.”

Numbers 14:28-29



“Not one of you will enter the land except Caleb and Joshua. As for your children, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected. Your bodies will fall in the desert and your children will suffer for your unfaithfulness 40 years, until the last of you dies.”
Numbers 14:30-33

The trip could've been made in 11 days. Now it will take 40 years.

What's the point?

Unbelief makes a mess and threatens your opportunity to experience the promises of God.

Unbelief

Cripples your prayers
Robs your joy
Muzzles your testimony
Steals your opportunity
Stifles your influence
Clogs your spiritual heart

Faith

Strengthens your prayers
Multiplies your joy
Amplifies your testimony
Enlarges your opportunity
Increases your influence
Enlivens your heart

“So we see they were not able to enter in because of their unbelief.”
Hebrews 3:19

“Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief!”
Mark 9:24

How does God help our unbelief?

He doesn't take away the test. There is no testimony without a test.
God doesn't give tests to fail people, but to apply what we've learned and pass.

Testing circumstances put the squeeze on the people so they could see what came out. It reveals what's on the inside.

Apply what they have learned:

- Put God first
- Tell the truth
- Don't covet what you don't have
- Believe God is good
- The power and love that brought them out will bring them in

If you want to increase the speed of your journey, increase your trust in God.



What is it that can...

- Build your trust
- Grow your faith
- Destroy materialism
- Lay hold of God's promises
- Bring fulfillment

Trust God with your finances by giving.

“Give and it will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured to you.”

Luke 6:38

Jesus wasn't after money - He was asking for faith, for people to believe God.

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:21

A tithe is a dime of every dollar: 10%.

As you keep trusting and keep giving, you are going to see God show up and it's going to amaze you. But you are also going to build trust and exercise faith, showing you believe.

“Without faith it is impossible to please God. But he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

Hebrews 11:6

Unbelief makes a mess. But believing brings great reward.

- Christ-followers don't lose their salvation. But we can miss out on the fullness of living in his promise.
- God didn't disown the people he had saved - He forgave them. But their unbelief kept them from experiencing the land of promise. - Don't let it do that for you.

