

But... Egypt is Better

By Justin Morton

Do you ever find yourself longing to go back and do something that has caused you an excruciating amount of pain in the past? If we are honest, most of us have had this desire at some point in time. It's a desire we clearly can see throughout history. Just consider the attitude and desire of the children of Israel. They were notorious for complaining about their circumstances. In fact, any time things became difficult, they would long to be back in Egypt. When they found themselves planted between the Red Sea and the army of Pharaoh, they said, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt?" (Ex. 14:11).

After the 12 spies returned from their scouting trip and 10 gave a bad report concerning the land God had promised, the people cried out, "Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt? Let us select a leader and return to Egypt" (Num. 14:3-4). Time and time again we see God's chosen people longing to go back to the land of Egypt instead of following the path God had set before them.

It would be easy for us to look at the children of Israel and think, "How could they be like that? Don't they realize how bad Egypt was?" (Ex. 1:13). However, the truth of the matter is that you and I are not much different. Even though, like the children of Israel, our Egypt might have been painful and even caused us to become slaves, often we long to go back anyway.

- 1) How many times has someone continued to log on to the computer late at night and look at a website he knows he should not be visiting?
- 2) How many times has someone continued to drink alcohol even though he has seen how it alters his behavior?
- 3) How many times has someone continued to hang around certain people even though she knows associating with them has a detrimental effect on her relationship with God?
- 4) How many times has someone continued to use filthy language even though she knows her children are hearing that filth?
- 5) How many times has someone continued to think lustful thoughts even though he knows the negative effect it has on how he looks at his spouse?

Sometimes we are no different than the children of Israel. Like them, we desire to go back down to our Egypt because we think it is better. We long to go back to our Egypt because it appears to be easier. In spite of all the hurt, pain and even the damage our Egypt might have caused, we find ourselves longing to return instead of following the path God would have us travel.

Friends, may God bless us with the wisdom to know that our Egypt has nothing on the life God has promised those who faithfully follow Him.