Hearts Prepared For Battle

Tony Mauck · Numbers 11:1–34

INTRODUCTION

- Now the people became like those who complain of adversity. And in the hearing of the Lord. And when the Lord heard it, his anger was kindled.
- We remember the fish which we used to eat free in Egypt. The cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic. But now, our appetite is gone.
- I alone am not able to carry all this people because it is too burdensome for me.

1 We Tend to Get Nostalgic About the Past

Exodus 2; Romans 6:21; Numbers 11:18

- We tend to get nostalgic about the past. Even if it wasn't so great. And that's exactly what Israel is doing.
- You were making bricks in Egypt. You were miserably oppressed. Have you forgotten all of that?
- Sometimes we get very selective in our memory. And we tend to do that spiritually as well.
- What benefit were you deriving from those things of which you are now ashamed?
- That temptation to go back to a worldly lifestyle and to love the world again, that is very similar to this pining for Egypt.

2 Gratitude May Well Be the Overlooked Key to Spiritual Victory

Hebrews 10:31

- Despite all the provision that God had made for them, they were yet unsatisfied. They had plenty, so they wanted variety.
- In their case, it was hearts of ingratitude. And thus unprepared for battle.
- Gratitude may well be the overlooked key to spiritual victory.
- In a culture driven by selfishness, we should not be surprised by a growing lack of gratitude.
- Were there not ten cleansed? Jesus asked. Where are the nine?

3 Forget None of His Benefits

Psalm 103:1–5

- Bless the Lord, O my soul. And forget none of his benefits.
- Who pardons all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit,.
- Forget none of his benefits. You're going to have to work at that. You're going to have to prepare your heart to do that.
- So often we go through our lives and we get engaged in this and that and everything else, and we forget his benefits.

4 One Thing We Get Focused On That's Negative

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

- Sometimes it's just one thing that we get focused on that's negative. The Israelites suffered from such a misguided focus.
- His deliverance, his guidance, his provision, they forgot it all because they wanted meat.
- My life would be ideal if. Fill in the blank.
- In everything, give thanks. For this is God's will for you. In Christ Jesus.
- Even when you wish you had meat and there was no meat. In everything, give thanks.

5 Focusing on the Many Positives

- We should never get over the wonder of that. I mean, it is so easy for us who have been Christians for a long period of time to take this for granted.
- I'd rather be among a people who love God and who love and serve each other.
- We have elders who lead us and love our souls. We have deacons who persevere in service.
- And yet we moan and complain. Because we're focused all the time on that one negative thing that we wish was different or better.

THE CHALLENGE

Let's take a step back and look at the big picture and be thankful for truly rich lives, most of all because we know the Lord. And we've been saved by the precious blood of a lamb.

MY NOTES