

Letting Go of Egypt

Hebrews 3:7-11 NIV

⁷ So, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear his voice,⁸ do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness,⁹ where your ancestors tested and tried me, though for forty years they saw what I did.¹⁰ That is why I was angry with that generation; I said, ‘Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.’¹¹ So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’ ”

I. Introduction

- a. To be who God has called us to be, there are some things we must let go.
 - Letting go is difficult, because it is uncomfortable or unfamiliar.
 - Heavy strongholds can be referred to as our “Egypt.”

II. What Is Egypt?

- a. Egypt is a country in the continent of Africa.
- b. Spiritually & figuratively speaking, it represents so much more. In the Bible Egypt represents:
 - A place of
 - Bondage
 - Slavery
 - Not enough/ lack
 - It represents
 - The world’s system
 - Our past and the things from which God has delivered us
 - Those things which God wants us to let go so that we can walk into His promises

III. What Is Canaan?

- a. Canaan represents:
 - The land flowing with milk and honey
 - The place of
 - Freedom
 - More than enough/ abundance
 - Walking in the full promises of God
 - Promise
- b. We have been created for “Canaan” (*the Promised Land*).
- c. To get to the Promised Land, we must come through the wilderness.
 - The wilderness represents
 - The place where we are tested
 - The process that leads to every promise
 - The land of barely enough
 - We must go through the wilderness on our way to every promise.

IV. Biblical Accounts of Going through Egypt

- a. The children of Israel took a 21-day journey and made it 40 years.

Exodus 3:9-10

⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

Exodus 15:22-24

Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) ²⁴ So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What are we to drink?”

Exodus 16:2-3

² In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³ The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the LORD’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

Numbers 11:4-6

The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, “If only we had meat to eat! ⁵ We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. ⁶ But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!”

Numbers 14:1-3

That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. ² All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! ³ Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?”

Numbers 20:3

They quarreled with Moses and said, “If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the LORD!

V. What Is Our “Egypt”?

- a. Anything keeping us from our “Canaan”
- b. Anything stopping us from being who God has called us to be

Examples:

- Lot’s wife wanted the past more than she wanted God.
- Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit about the money they had. Their love for money caused them to literally drop dead.
- Judas had offense in his heart towards Jesus.

- c. “Egypt” can be a variety of things.

- Unforgiveness
- Pride
- A mindset
- Sickness
- Sin

VI. How Do You Let Go of “Egypt”?

- a. Give it to God.
- b. Trust God with it, no matter how hard it is.