

LEARNING TO COUNT



We are all dying.

“A person’s days are determined;
you have decreed the number of
his months and have set **limits** he
cannot exceed.”

Job 14:5 NIV

Death clarifies our perspective on
life.

Teach us to **number our days**, that
we may gain a heart of **wisdom.**”

Psalm 90:12 NIV

“I believe that it isn’t dying that people are afraid of. Something else. Something more unsettling and more tragic than dying frightens us. We’re afraid of never having lived. Of coming to the end of our days with the sense that we were never really alive. That we never figured out what life was for.”

- Harold Kushner

Regret

If Only...

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5. I had let myself be **happier**.

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4. I had stayed in touch with my **friends**.

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2. I didn't **work** so hard.

If Only....

5. I had let myself be **happier**.
4. I had stayed in touch with my **friends**.
3. I had **expressed my feelings**
2. I didn't **work** so hard.
1. I had lived a life **true to myself**.

The Israelites

Now the people **complained** about their **hardships** in the hearing of the Lord, and when he heard them his anger was aroused...

Numbers 11:1 NIV

The rabble with them began to
crave other food, and again the
Israelites started wailing and said,
“**If only** we had meat to eat!”

Numbers 11:4 NIV

We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at **no cost**—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!”

Numbers 11:5-6 NIV

“Tell the people: ‘Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat...’”

Numbers 11:18 NIV

“The Lord heard you when you wailed, “**If only** we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!” Now the Lord will give you meat, and you will eat it.

Numbers 11:18 NIV

“You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days, but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it...”

Numbers 11:19-20 NIV

“... because you have rejected the Lord, who is among you, and have **wailed** before him, saying, ‘Why did we ever leave Egypt?’ ”

Numbers 11:20 NIV

But while the meat was still between their teeth and before it could be consumed, the anger of the Lord burned against the people, and he struck them with a severe plague.

Numbers 11:33 NIV

The Lord said to Moses,
“Send some men to explore the
land of Canaan, which I am giving
to the Israelites. From each
ancestral tribe send one of its
leaders.”

Numbers 13:1-2 NIV

When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs.

Numbers 13:23-24 NIV

At the end of **forty days** they returned from exploring the land. They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran.

Numbers 13:25-26 NIV

There they reported to them and
to the whole assembly and
showed them the fruit of the land.
They gave Moses this account...

Numbers 13:25-26 NIV

“We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit.”

Numbers 13:26-27 NIV

But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.

Numbers 13:28 NIV

Then **Caleb** silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

Numbers 13:30 NIV

But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.”

Numbers 13:31 NIV

And they spread among the
Israelites a **bad report** about the
land they had explored...

Numbers 13:32 NIV

They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size.”

Numbers 13:32 NIV

That night all the members of the
community raised their voices
and wept aloud.

Numbers 14:1 NIV

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!

Numbers 14:2 NIV

1. Faith it, don't fear it.

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2. Don't live in the past.

1. Faith it, don't fear it.
2. Don't live in the past.
3. Quit making excuses.

If Only...

Live today in such a way you won't
regret it tomorrow.

God, give me the wisdom to know
the best thing to do and the faith to
do it, even if it's hard.