

“Wondering What the Future Holds”

Sermon Notes

Wondering What the **Future** Holds

LCU Life **Change** Unit

Resisting **Change**

Request to **go back** to Egypt

Leading the Israelites through a season of **change**.

Why do we hate **change**?

We **glamorize** the past.

Exodus 16:2-3 NLT

There, too, the whole community of Israel **complained** about Moses and Aaron.

“If only the LORD had **killed** us back in Egypt,” they moaned. “There we sat around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death.”

We **overlook** the good things of the present.

Numbers 11:6 NLT

But now our appetites are gone. All we ever see is this manna!”

We fear the **future**.

Numbers 13:31, 33 NLT

But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. “We can’t go up against them! They are stronger than we are!”

We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that’s what they thought, too!”

Negativity is contagious.

Numbers 14:1-4 NLT

Then the whole community began weeping aloud, and they cried all night. Their voices rose in a great chorus of protest against Moses and Aaron. “If only we had **died** in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!” they complained. “Why is the LORD taking us to this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives and our little ones will be carried off as plunder! Wouldn’t it be better for us to return to Egypt?” Then they plotted among themselves, “Let’s choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!”

How can we positively navigate change?

Live with a sense of gratitude.

1 Corinthians 10:6,10 NLT

These things happened as a warning to us, so that we would not crave evil things as they did.

And don’t **grumble** as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death.

Grumbling and complaining is not **God’s Will** for you!

1 Thessalonians 5:18 NLT

Be **thankful in all circumstances**, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

“It could be **worse**.”

Stand on the rock.

1 Corinthians 10:4 NLT

and all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the **spiritual rock** that traveled with them, and that rock was **Christ**.

Exodus 32:25-26 NLT

Moses saw that Aaron had let the people get completely out of control, much to the amusement of their enemies. So he stood at the entrance to the camp and shouted,

“Wondering What the Future Holds”

Presented by Pastor David Bellows

Christ’s Church of Marion County

July 26, 2020

Page 2 of 4

“All of you who are **on the LORD’s side**, come here and join me.” And all the Levites gathered around him.

Live by faith.

Hebrews 11:30 NLT

It was **by faith** that the people of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, and the walls came crashing down.

“Wondering What the Future Holds” Small Group Notes

The Israelites had been waiting and praying to be set free from slavery in Egypt. God sent Moses to deliver them. You’d think that the Israelites—especially after the awesome Red Sea episode—would have been ecstatically happy, eternally grateful, cooperative and confident of Moses’ leadership and God’s ability to take incredibly good care of them, and constantly rejoicing in their deliverance from Egypt. Instead, it didn’t take long before they sank into a pattern of complaining, rebelling, and fearfully resisting change. They kept looking to the past, wishing they could go back to how things were.

read Exodus 16:2-3; Exodus 32:25-26 Why do we struggle with change? Why do we so often prefer to remain in the present rather than face the challenges of an unknown future? Have you ever glamorized the past, recalling it as better than it really was? Why do you think we glamorize the past?

read Numbers 11:6. Have you ever found yourself complaining about the imperfections of something instead of being grateful for what you had in front of you? How do you think God feels about our complaints? How do they affect our relationship with him? When your faith is tested, do you listen more to people’s complaints, to God’s promises, or to inner doubts?

“Wondering What the Future Holds”

Presented by Pastor David Bellows

Christ’s Church of Marion County

July 26, 2020

Page 3 of 4

read Numbers 13:31, 33. What are some things you are afraid of? Public speaking? Spiders? Rollercoasters?

read Numbers 14:1-3. What was God's reaction to the Israelites' persistent complaints and fears?

So how can we positively navigate the changes we are hit with in life? Live with a sense of gratitude. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

read 1 Corinthians 10:6 and 10. What is something that you are grateful for right now? What are some habits we can create to help us cultivate and strengthen an attitude of gratitude? Stand on the Rock. 1 Corinthians 10:4 says, "For they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ." Is there anything you have allowed to become a "golden calf" in your life? In what area of your life do you need to declare God as the Rock?

Live by Faith. *read Hebrews 11:30.* As we help each other navigate change, which one of the three statements above would top your list of advice? Why? Which one do you need more of?

"Wondering What the Future Holds"

Presented by Pastor David Bellows

Christ's Church of Marion County

July 26, 2020

Page 4 of 4