



Changing The Things That Do Not Work (Division, Part 3)
(Embrace the Benefit of Being United and Thankful)

November 21, 2021

Current Series Summary: Change What Does Not Work

1. Face the Weaknesses in a Divided Kingdom (**Division and strife are contagious**)
2. Face the Dangers of a Divided Government (**When government divides, we all lose**)
3. **Embrace the Benefits of Being Thankful (Thanksgiving 2021)**
4. Embrace the Benefits of Good Thinking and Avoiding Division

Statement: It's an insult to refuse to show gratitude to people that are kind to you. Israel was quickly becoming more and more ungrateful. Once they were physically free from Egypt, some of the people kept Egypt's habits and false gods in their daily practices.

Question: How long did it take for Israel to become ungrateful? (15 days into the second month after they came out of Egypt)

I. The Thankful Described (Exodus 16:1-3, NIV)

- 16 The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. 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."

II. God's Issue with the Ungrateful

The Ungrateful Forget Too Quickly (Numbers 14:20-25)

- 20 The Lord replied, "I have forgiven them, as you asked. 21 Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth,
- 22 not one of **those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness** but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times—23 not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.

III. The Thankful Described (Numbers 14:24-25)

They Followed Wholeheartedly

- 24 But because my servant Caleb has a different **spirit and follows me wholeheartedly**, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it. 25 Since the Amalekites and the Canaanites are living in the valleys, turn back tomorrow and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea."

IV. The Consequences for Being Ungrateful Described
(Numbers 14:26–35, NIV)

1. **They incurred the wrath of God**



- 27 “How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites.
- 28 So tell them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very thing I heard you say:
29 **In this wilderness your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more** who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me.

2. They are banned from The Promise Land (This is one of those big tell you off moments)

- 30 **Not one of you** will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. 31 As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected. 32 **But as for you, your bodies will fall in this wilderness.** 33 Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, **until the last of your bodies lies in the wilderness.** 34 For forty years—one year for each of the forty days you explored the land—**you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you.** 35 I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will surely do these things to this whole wicked community, which has banded together against me. They will meet their end in this wilderness; **here they will die.”**

Statement: I Have a Theory I Call “The Entrance Denial Theory”

- **Because of certain choices and attitudes, you can be denied entrance into certain opportunities for life. God will take you out of somebody’s heart and they will find it hard to care or be concerned about what happens to you.**
- **Joshua and Caleb moved on and left the rebellious to their harvest. They didn’t pray for God to change His mind like Moses their mentor prayed (cp. Deuteronomy 3:23-29)**

3. They are forced to observe the blessings of others (Joshua and Caleb)

- **30 Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home,** except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.
- **31 As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder,** I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected.

Conclusion: This Thanksgiving, focus on the good God has provided and refuse to be unthankful.

Next Time: Questions About Embracing the Benefits of United Families and Cities