

Remember when...

People often fall into the trap of only remembering what they want to remember at a given time. It is why people often talk of the "good old days" with such one-sided fondness. This is what happened to the children of Israel on one occasion. Moses, by inspiration, records it as follows:

"Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!" Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its color like the color of bdellium. The people went about and gathered it, ground it on millstones or beat it in the mortar, cooked it in pans, and made cakes of it; and its taste was like the taste of pastry prepared with oil. And when the dew fell on the camp in the night, the manna fell on it." (Numbers 11:4-9 NKJV)

The children of Israel were tired of manna. They did not want any more of that bland colored bread. They want meat. They remember "fondly" the fish and vegetables they used to eat in Egypt. What they have forgotten is all the toil, hardship, and even death that was associated with that life. They have forgotten the most important things in their lust for something "better."

It is easy for us to fall prey to the same attitudes today. The Israelites were full of greed and lust, and they created a skewed view of where they were and where they had been. The whining and complaining of Israel did not turn out in their favor on this occasion, nor will it work out well for us if we follow their example.

Be mindful of the words of Paul: "But godliness with contentment is great gain... and having food and raiment let us be therewith content" (1 Timothy 6:6,8). ~~ *Adam Cozort*