

DESERT PAIN:
GRAVES OF CRAVING

Numbers 11:31-35

Desert Pain
REFINED BY JUDGEMENT





THE DESERT JOURNEY WASN'T JUST ABOUT
GETTING THE PEOPLE OUT OF EGYPT.

IT WAS ABOUT GETTING
EGYPT OUT OF THE PEOPLE.

A photograph of a cracked, dry desert landscape. The ground is parched and broken into irregular, polygonal shapes, resembling a mosaic of dried mud. The color is a warm, dusty brown. The sky is a pale, clear blue. A semi-transparent horizontal band is overlaid across the center of the image, containing the text in white, serif, all-caps font.

THE DESERT EXPOSES
WHAT WE'RE REALLY
HUNGRY FOR

EXODUS 16:4

⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, “I will **rain down bread** from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.



EXODUS 16:13b-15

^{13b} In the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor.

¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “**What is it?**” For they did not know what it was.





NUMBERS 11:18-20

⁴ 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!”



SUDDENLY THERE IS A GAP BETWEEN
WHAT WE FEEL LIKE WE WANT VERSUS
WHAT WE NEED.

NOW WE HAVE A HEART ISSUE



NUMBERS 11:31

³¹ Now a wind went out from the Lord and drove quail in from the sea. It scattered them up to **two cubits deep** all around the camp, as far as a **day's walk** in any direction.



NUMBERS 11:31

³¹ Now a wind went out from the Lord and drove quail in from the sea. It scattered them up to **two cubits deep** all around the camp, as far as a **day's walk** in any direction.

³² All that day and night and all the next day **the people** went out and gathered quail. No one gathered less than **ten homers**. Then they spread them out all around the camp.



THE MANNA WAS BLESSING,
BUT THE QUAIL WAS
JUDGEMENT



NUMBERS 11:33-34

¹⁸ “Tell the people: ‘Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat. 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. ¹⁹ You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days, ²⁰ but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it—because you have rejected the Lord, who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, “Why did we ever leave Egypt?”””

LUST EXPOSED

1. Lust promises what it can't deliver



LUST EXPOSED

1. Lust promises what it can't deliver
2. Lust enslaves: becoming a desire that dominates the mind



LUST EXPOSED

1. Lust **promises what it can't deliver**
2. Lust **enslaves**: becoming a desire that dominates the mind
3. Lust **dulls our sensitivity and escalates our behaviour**: a loss of sensitivity leads to lack of restraint



LUST EXPOSED

1. Lust promises what it can't deliver
2. Lust enslaves: becoming a desire that dominates the mind
3. Lust dulls our sensitivity and escalates our behaviour: a loss of sensitivity leads to lack of restraint

= LOATHING



MATTHEW 5:29-30

²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.





WHAT THEY THOUGHT WOULD
SATISFY THEM BECAME THE
THING THAT DESTROYED THEM.



DEUTERONOMY 8:1-3

¹ Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors. ² Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. ³ He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.



DEUTERONOMY 8:10-14

¹⁰ When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

¹¹ **Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God**, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day.

¹² Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, ¹³ and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, ¹⁴ then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.



GOD INVITES US TO TRUST THAT
MANNA IS BEST FOR US.