

Kev's sermon notes for eGroups

Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021

Elevation Church - Broadcasting from Ballantyne Campus – Charlotte, NC USA

Pastor: Pastor Steven Furtick

Sermon Title: "Room to Receive – Part 1 - Comfort Food – Why do we Crave what we Hate – to crave inordinate things from Pharaoh? - The Refrigerator of Our God is Full – Leaving Egypt but now "Getting Egypt" out of the People – We all have a Pharaoh that keeps us in chains – Staying Excited Despite Eating the Same Thing Every Day – God wants to move us the Grapes of Cannon – The Fish (from Egypt) are not that Good – Truth is an Acquired Taste – What are you going to do with the Rabble?"

Elevation Worship:

- Wild Love - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSVQrt2HWGo>
- Graves to Gardens - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwX1f2gYKZ4>
- Dang! New version of Love Won't Give Up - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkObVlj-BY8>
(Kev note: Love the new violin addition with this song)
- A new wake up song: Might Get Loud - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3lcGJ3sMeo>

Scripture for this week:

- **Numbers 11: 4-6:** Quail From the Lord - **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!" 7** The manna was like coriander seed and looked like resin. 8 The people went around gathering it, and then ground it in a hand mill or crushed it in a mortar. They cooked it in a pot or made it into loaves. And it tasted like something made with olive oil. 9 When the dew settled on the camp at night, the manna also came down. 10 Moses heard the people of every family wailing at the entrance to their tents. The Lord became exceedingly angry, and Moses was troubled. 11 He asked the Lord, "Why have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me? 12 Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their ancestors? 13 Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, 'Give us meat to eat!' 14 I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me. 15 If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me—if I have found favor in your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin." 16 The Lord said to Moses: "Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the tent of meeting, that they may stand there with you. 17 I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them. They will share the burden of the people with you so that you will not have to carry it alone. 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?" 21 But Moses said, "Here I am among six hundred thousand men on

foot, and you say, 'I will give them meat to eat for a whole month!' 22 Would they have enough if flocks and herds were slaughtered for them? Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?" 23 The Lord answered Moses, "Is the Lord's arm too short? Now you will see whether or not what I say will come true for you." 24 So Moses went out and told the people what the Lord had said. He brought together seventy of their elders and had them stand around the tent. 25 Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took some of the power of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied—but did not do so again. 26 However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp. 27 A young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." 28 Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide since youth, spoke up and said, "Moses, my lord, stop them!" 29 But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!" 30 Then Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp. 31 Now a wind went out from the Lord and drove quail in from the sea. It scattered them up to two cubits[b] 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. 33 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. 34 Therefore the place was named Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had craved other food. 35 From Kibroth Hattaavah the people traveled to Hazeroth and stayed there."**

- **Gen 41: 51 to 57:** Joseph in Charge of Egypt - 41 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." 42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. 43 He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and people shouted before him, "Make way[c]!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt. 44 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt." 45 Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt. 46 Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt. 47 During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully. 48 Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it. 49 Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure. 50 Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On. **51 Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, "It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." 52 The second son he named Ephraim and said, "It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering." 53 The seven years of abundance in Egypt came to an end, 54 and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all the other lands, but in the whole land of Egypt there was food. 55 When all Egypt began to feel the famine, the people cried to Pharaoh for food. Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph and do what he tells you." 56 When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened all the**

storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt. 57 And all the world came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe everywhere. **“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.**

- **Luke 15:13:** The Prodigal Son - 11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. 13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ 20 So he got up and went to his father.
- Ex 12: 37-38: 37 The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. 38 **Many other people went up with them,** and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds. 39 With the dough the Israelites had brought from Egypt, they baked loaves of unleavened bread. The dough was without yeast because they had been driven out of Egypt and did not have time to prepare food for themselves. 40 Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. 41 At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord’s divisions left Egypt. 42 Because the Lord kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the Lord for the generations to come.
- Luke 15: 31 to 32: 31 “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

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- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don’t have to walk this walk alone? – See www.elevationchurch.cc.
- Interested in leading an eGroup? See: www.elevationchurch.cc.
- Interesting in serving at Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc
- Here Comes Church:
 - Baptism and public declaration of Kirk and Jen + their two sons from the Virgin Islands – while in survival mode after a hurricane in 2017 – making an end if year offering – “being obedient has liberated us from many things.”
 - *What is God going to do through you?*

- Elevation Worship has launched a new quieter & softer version of the “Graves to Gardens – Morning and Evening”
- Not walking in the fear of man but the favor of God: We stepped up in our giving this year – The favor offering went up this year and not down – thank you on behalf all those that will be helped – more on this over the next few weeks.
- Happy 7th anniversary for Elevation – Lake Norman – over 1,300 baptisms at this campus.
- Important things happening at Elevation Church:
 - Rhythm Nights are back! – Restarting Wed. 1/13/2021. See Rhythm Night at Elevation Church on a YouTube channel.
 - Elevation eKids: Search Elevation Church eKids link on YouTube
 - Live Spanish translation: Go to the Elevation Church Spanish channel on YouTube
- Opening Prayer #1 by Pastor Steven Furtick on 1/10/2021: *“Please join me in prayer – Jesus Christ is still the Lord of Lord and King of Kings - and He is the Lord of this church – and He still hears his people when we pray – and it’s easy for us to feel hopeless or be filled with fear – and I want to remind you that God is with us – and He has called us to seek Him – and we ask for His help to heal our land – as we begin the new year father, we pray not just from the United States but all over the world – we ask for justice to roll like a mighty stream – Lord, continue to use us individually – Lord, let this church movement bring the message of reconciliation and the message of Jesus Christ into a hurting world – and we pray as we worship you today – that our eyes would be on the one true throne – and on the one true God – we worship you now Lord – Amen.”*
- Opening Prayer #2 by Pastor Steven Furtick: *“There is a praise that breaks chains – Tell this to Blind Bartimaeus – Open the mouth that God gave you and should out to God – Please give God a great praise all over the world – Shout to God to proclaim the victory – Don’t be like Martha and just stay busy in the Kitchen - We come to celebrate a new year and the continuation of God’s favor – Remind ourselves that we are loved and highly favored – Praise God for what he has done and will do in our lives – Let the redeemed declare what we believe. Amen.”*
- **See Numbers 11: 4 to 6 - What is your most favorite comfort food – the food that is not necessarily good for you – but you like the most – because it tastes so good?**
- Recall the story Holly and Steven Furtick having dinner with hosts in Singapore at typical US restaurants. “I could have eaten all this in Charlotte, NC.”
- Our favorite food can be found at common “chain” (keeping us chained) restaurants. If the place is new and unfamiliar, at least we like things that we can recognize.
- The Israelites came to a strange place – after their escape from Egypt. It had been 430 years since they entered Egypt – and 430 years is enough time to adjust your taste buds – recall that the Israelites were not slaves for 430 years - they were only slaves for 400 years – for the first 30 years, Egypt was the place that fed them on what they needed to Survive.
- See Gen 41: 51 to 55: How people Got to Egypt – as we have discussed in the past the place that you escape two in one season can be the place of enslavement in another season. The Israelites came to Egypt out of necessity and survival - not out of convenience.
- **One of these days I’m going to do a sermon called “Sins With Benefits” – things that we do to meet a certain need in our lives – however the nature of the need creates a greater need throwing us into a downward spiral - which eventually feels like slavery.**

- See Gen 41: 51 to 55 – I’m preaching to someone today that is feels the famine – it could be a famine of encouragement in your life – like no one has told you you’ve done a good job in a while – or no one has told you in a few months that you matter – not impure motives while trying to manipulate you to do something for them – so now you’re so jaded that you can’t receive the nutrition and encouragement of others – because you experienced it in a manipulative format – so now you’re reluctant to receive any favorable feedback that is positive – because you have trained your taste buds to something that is negative – but you feel the famine.
- Scripture states that the famine was so bad that people cried to King Pharaoh of Egypt (ruler of Egypt that put Joseph in charge of the food supply)
- Recall from scripture that the famine caused Joseph’s entire family to seek food relief in Egypt. God will use a famine in your life to get you into position in order to fulfill His purpose in your life.
- Many of us say that we want God to move in our life in 2021. In order for God to move in your life, he might need to remove something in your life – so when you pray this, you have to think about this at the same time. If God is going to move and change things – often this means that we want the type of change that we can control individually. Talk to me church of the living God.
- Vs 57 says that all the world came to Egypt due to the famine.
- Here’s where a little bit of compassion kicks in with me – when a pastor confronts someone for their alcoholism, sexual addiction, or moral failure – I feel that the other person needs to say something in their own defense – it meets a need – and then the church can help the person if we are all honest about that – to find a better way to meet that need through God – this is what salvation and transformation is – not that God tells you to starve and swallow your spit and like it – but to get joy from a place that will not create chains – not merely just to make a person temporarily comfortable.
- In this passage of Numbers 4, the Israelites have been in Egypt for 400 years – and as we have learned it’s a lot easier to get out of Egypt than it is to get Egypt out of you.
- This is why no matter how many new cities that you move to – or how many new churches you try out – or hair colors that you try - can free you from the internal struggles that you carry.
- For the Israelites it was a survival instinct – either go to Egypt and survive or starve to death.
- It’s easy to criticize the Israelites’ attachment to Egypt however we don’t have a good understanding of their abuse that they were being subjected to – that put them in that position to begin with – because we don’t know or what they were going through.
- When we are outside of the situation, we have the benefit of seeing what needs to be done.
- The Israelites were so deep into the struggle (Numbers 11) – yes they wanted to go back to Egypt – just like we want to go back to _____ (you fill in the blanks).
- Let me see your smart phone and let me find your Egyptian Pharaoh. I’m not going to do this but I could – the instruction and numbers 11 is centuries old yet we continue to fill our minds with stuff that make us feel worse in the end.
- Great sarcastic comment by Pastor Furtick: The self-righteous say they don’t have comfort food because they live such a pure gluten-free lifestyle – drinking only almond milk with wheat grass shots – things of nature that are good for my digestive system – therefore, I don’t need to hear a sermon about things that great famines in our lives.
- We all have a Pharaoh in our lives.

- So you don't think you need comfort foods - Do you have comfort friends? The type of friends that only make you feel better for five minutes – some of us are drawn to these relationships – that keep us in chains – and we like the chains because they're comfortable – and when we meet new friends that challenge us to change for the good – we push them away because the chains are comfortable.
- Chains are comfortable however they are not safe.
- Also consider comfort phrases – things that we say to make ourselves feel better – or the excuses that we make – or the things we say to avoid blame – we feed ourselves these lines (I can never do that – this is why I behave this way – no one really loves us) – all things we say to keep us in the comfort of our dysfunctional lives.
- In Numbers 11, we see this same behavior in the Israelites - and we also have to feel for them because they have been in the wilderness for an entire year – for one year they have been eating the same menu item called manna from heaven. Manna literally means "What is it?"
- **During some seasons of your life God will give you something to help you survive that might not be very savory.**
- To the Israelites manna, was new to them and I've never tasted anything like that before.
- Recall from scripture that manna was formed from the morning dew and provided their needs for that day – our daily bread – where God provides for us – enough for right now – Nor can one pull from today's feast to satisfy tomorrow's needs – nor can we pull from tomorrow's joy or tomorrow's peace to satisfy the needs of today – this is where we get stressed – and this is when we want to go back to Egypt.
- **When the Israelites first encountered manna from, heaven they were amazed. What is this? A strange but satisfying food. Remember God wanted to bring them into the promised land – they had taste of the grapes of Canaan – however they forfeited their right to that land because of their lack of faith – and their lack of faith left them circling in the wilderness – for one year – and the manna from heaven has gotten monotonous – the miracle has gotten monotonous.**
- This also applies to all of us ungrateful complaining people.
- **See Numbers 11:4 to 6.**
- **We have lost our appetite – it has changed from a statement of possibility to a statement of predictability – now I'm bored with this – What is this now?**
- **We got the Israelites in trouble they started complaining about doing the same thing every day – now they pine for the fish of Egypt.**
- So now let's explore this in a deeper context.
- What made the Israelites want to go back to the place where they were slaves for the last 400 years? What made them want to give up the right to freedom – to want to go back to captivity?
- On one hand the manna was the same every day (same patterns and same old crap) – on the other hand – everything had changed. At the same time the Israelites are going through this gridlock system of the same, everything has changed – they've never been freed before (for the prior 400 years) – everything has changed yet everything is the same every day – it's a combination of the mundane + the boring along with the instability of everything that you had ever known going away – that causes the Israelites something to crave that almost kills them.
- Do you think this is a lot like us in the year 2021? – where every day is the same drumbeat of the same bad news – the day is filled with so many unknowns?

- Recall that the Israelites had to move constantly in the wilderness – and had no schedule for it (similar to today) – and they were stuck in the between of the same manna being provided for every day and the need for a change. In the in between there is nothing.
- Recall the U2 analogy while they were considering splitting up the band – you have to abandon one to get to the other.
- **Here is the point: Before we get out of Egypt, we have to get the Egypt out of us. So where do you go when you feel the famine? When you feel alone? When you feel afraid? When you feel ashamed?**
- Here is the question from Numbers 11: Do you want the fruit or the fish? – Do you remember what God wanted for his people? The grapes of Canaan.
- **Think about this year we have been through - a very unsettling time – at the same time it's been unsettling, it has been completely boring – how can we become so scared and so bored at the same time – where things are so predicably stupid and we are mad all of the time – to the point where we crave something stable – but here is the point: chains don't make you stable, they only feel that way – so if we stay with Pharaoh in Egypt to satisfy or temporary needs, we will never be full.**
- This is what is bad about Pharaoh's fish – because getting back to the old ways – BC (Before COVID-19) was better – when I was about to have a nervous breakdown or was in the middle of a divorce – the garlics and onions.
- And the reason that the Israelites wanted the garlic and onions of Egypt was because they had forfeited the grapes of Canaan.
- This is the era that we are in right now: Every day is the same but we can't plan anything.
- **We are hungry and we have to decide whether we're going to eat the fish Egypt or the grapes of Canaan – the manna was never meant to be permanent – the manna was the mercy of God – the Israelites were not supposed to like the taste of manna – God did not want them to die in the wilderness – God was using things like manna to keep them moving forward – God is using this place of dissatisfaction so that we do not remain in one place for mere survival – so that we fully enjoy what God has for us – God wants us to survive in the wilderness – even if we lose our taste for the manna.**
- Numbers 11 is often used as a message to stop us from complaining.
- However this is a surface level interpretation.
- **Here's a deeper level question: What makes us crave something that can kill us? Why do we crave what we hate? This is question that we are after?**
- The Israelites cried for God to get them out of Egypt – then God did that – and now they're wailing to go back? Why do we prefer pessimistic thoughts? Why do we tend to gravitate to pessimistic thoughts? Why do we gravitate to self-pity? Why do we feed ourselves such negative thoughts?
- **Recall that I said that our smart phone is our Pharaoh – most of what you were doing is called a feed – have you noticed that the feeds do not fill you? When is the last time you got off Instagram or Facebook and said wow! I feel so refreshed and so renewed – and my faith in humanity has been fully restored based on all of the godly people that post such beautiful things.**
- Social media is designed to starve us and keep us coming back for more.
- Our appetite for the wrong things is insatiable.
- And some of the stuff that you crave isn't bad – it depends on where you go to get it.

- This is what I love about God – he has got what I really want.
- Why would we run to King Pharaoh to beg for something that our Father can freely give us?
- Let's talk about what is in our father's refrigerator. Centuries later Jesus comes before us to tell us what the kingdom of God is all about:
 - The kingdom of God is like the shepherd who has 100 sheep – loses one and then goes searching for the one.
 - Kingdom of God is like a woman for 10 coins and after losing one goes after the one coin.
 - Kingdom of God is like a man and his two sons – and one of his sons becomes lost.
- See Luke 15 – The Prodigal Son – where the son wasted his inheritance – he gets blamed for a lot of stuff – we also have wasted stuff – we have wasted time – we have wasted thoughts – we have wasted energy – we have wasted intellect – we have wasted passions – we craved inordinate things.
- **This is what is meant in Numbers 11 – crave an inordinate thing with an indiscriminate leaning on your senses – just eating anything.**
- And this what the son did when he abandoned his father.
- See Luke 15: 13.
- Like the Israelites, the son went to a foreign place – but he was not running from a famine – he was running from his father and pursued wild living.
- Plug in anything that fits here that is most applicable to you.
- Think about the things that keep you spending – and keep you hungry.
- **See Luke 15 (The Parable of the Prodigal Son) - Eventually we reach a point we are spent – when we go to a foreign place and away from who we really are – away from character first – chasing after applause from people – chasing after someone else's approval – it does not fill you – Pharaoh can never feed you – there are not enough fish in the world – and while we are it, the fish are not that good – they are full of bones and can potentially choke you – the fish are not as good as you remember them – the fish are not as good as you imagined them – Do you now see what happens when you the fish are not worth giving up ourselves for – not worth giving up our peace for – there is not a fish in the Nile that is worth giving up our knowledge of God.**
- Yet, this what the younger brother did in Luke 15 and because of the famine, he was brought back to his father – this is the nature of grace and faith – the good stuff that you can live on.
- Do you now see what happens when you leave your father – look at what happens to you when you start remembering Egypt's fish and forgetting God's faithfulness.
- **The son hired himself out to work in another country – he did not belong there – and you don't belong there either – you do not belong on a porn hub at 3 AM in the morning to find something that fills you that only makes you more hungry – you do not belong in that place – and yes this is a real pulpit talking about real things.**
- I am not yelling at you – I am pleading with you – don't let a craving kill you – do you want acceptance and joy? This is good – do you want life? This is good – the problem with Christians is that we do not want too much – we don't want enough of God – we will settle for fish yet God wants us to have fruit – we want a high but God wants us to be seated above all of the noise in this world – and I found out this the hard way – The son in Luke 15 did not want enough – he just wanted his share of his inheritance – and look where it left him – and this is why we have been feeling weak.

- In Luke 15 it says the son relished what do pigs are eating – comfort food.
- What lies have you been going to feel full for just five minutes?
- **See Luke 15:17 – then the son had a realization – and he came to his senses – my father’s fridge is full – the fish are not that delicious – tell every pharaoh that keeps you in chains of ways of believing and behaving – and living – and thinking – and hurting – and bleeding – and starving – Goodbye pharaoh, My God’s refrigerator is full – we have not been eating the wrong things we’ve just been getting them from the wrong places – it is an acquired taste – truth is an acquired taste when we’ve been eating lies our entire life.**
- So the Lord told me today that we should think about comfort food.
- **And we need to ask this question: Why do we crave what we hate? And what would be a better way to get it? There is a better way inside of God to get this done – for everything that is destroying our lives - understand that our father has a better alternative.**
- **With every decision that you make – here is what you’re deciding – Am I going to get it from Pharaoh or am I get going to get it from my father? One is a chain restaurant keeping us stuck right where we are at in Egypt – however the other one is different – if the Son makes you free - you’ll be free indeed – (Kev note: See the song “Who You Say I am” by Hillsong Worship with over 117 million YouTube views. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lKw6uqtGFfo>)**
- Everything and I’m trying to teach you can be found in Numbers 11: 4 – *“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!”*
- Definition of rabble: See Ex 12: 37-38 – the Egyptians that accompanied the Israelites – when you understand the definition of rabble, you can understand why are you crave things that you hate and that destroy you – when the Israelites left Egypt, they had to do it in the middle the night and were in a hurry – the Israelites were in survival mode and just wanted to stay ahead of the situation – when they left 400 years of bondage other people left with them – when the Israelites left Egypt - Egypt did not leave them – I’m not talking about people here – talking about perspectives – I’m talking about thought patterns – the things that we carry with us as we enter a new relationship in Christ – we should not be alarmed on some of the old cravings are still there – the rabble.
- **We need to have room to receive the favor of God – in order to have room to receive the new things – the grapes of Canaan – the promises of God – the encouragement – the joy – the honey – the sweetness – the things that God has directed us to savor – things that are already in us but they get crowded out by the old cravings – the old lies, limitations, and routines of the rabble – by the old Routines, Attitudes, Beliefs, Behaviors, and Examples that we have experienced in a prior season – it is reaching for Egypt’s fish while the grapes of Canaan or right in front of us.**
- Remember this and going into the new year – for us to receive God’s blessing, we need to asked God to first remove the rabble.
- **So here is the decision: In order for us to receive God’s best for our lives, are you willing to allow God to remove the rabble? The old that feels good that draws you back in.**
- **See Numbers 11:34.** “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. 33 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. 34

Therefore the place was named Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had craved other food. 35 From Kibroth Hattaavah the people traveled to Hazeroth and stayed there.”

- What is this manna? This is precisely where God wants you – it is safe – God is bringing us to our senses – and then God sent them so much quail and homers that it was all over the place.
- **Kibroth Hattaavah means graves of cravings.**
- **God is bringing this question into the new year: Do you want a funeral or a feast? Or perhaps God is telling us to have a funeral for the rabble – so that we can feast on what the Father has put inside of our hearts.**
- **Closing Prayer by Pastor Furtick on 1/10/2021: It is about to be a feast in the father’s House – Just like the other son in Luke 15 (Parable of the Prodigal Son), he was starving inside of his father’s house – there’s no need for us to starve because our Father has plenty of it – Treat this as a New Year’s consecration moment – What good is it to accept a new identity in Christ if we’re going to stay on an Egyptian diet? Lord you are our food – our bread – our sustenance – we live, move, and have our being in you – Lord you are more than enough – you even provide the Tupperware – Lord we commit a new year to you – we would hate to be the bearer of a Canaan promise and die with a Egyptian appetite – We want to speak to you this week about the rabble – cravings that we have to bury before we move forward – It is the old routines and the old mindsets they’re killing us – and old attitudes that are squeezing us – beliefs that are limiting us – behaviors that are sabotaging us – labels, limits, and lies that confine us – we are not going back to Egypt and nor do we want to go back – Lord, you brought us this far – and we did not come this far to die – we will stop complaining about what you gave us – because what you gave us we need for the season that we are in – and we are grateful and we are thankful – and it is right for us to celebrate. Thank you for necessary food and we thank you for this living water – In Jesus’ name amen.**

This week’s Charles Surgeon Moment (CSM):

“If you cannot speak with trumpet tongue, use the still small voice. If the pulpit must not be your tribune, if the press may not carry on its wings your words, yet say with Peter and John, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you.” 2 By Sychar’s well talk to the Samaritan woman, if you cannot preach a sermon on the mountain; utter the praises of Jesus in the house, if not in the temple; in the field, if not in the public square; in your own household, if you cannot in the great family of man. From the hidden springs within, let sweetly flowing streams of testimony flow Hide not your talent; trade with it, and you shall bring in good interest to your Lord and Master. To speak for God will be refreshing to ourselves, cheering to saints, useful to sinners, and honoring to the Savior.”