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Truth Vs Lies: Which Do You Follow? (Part 2)

Intro: How many times have you heard the phrase, “You deserve it?” We live in a culture that is constantly telling us this. We live in the age of entitlement. (Examples: J.G. Wentworth commercial – “It’s my money and I want it NOW!”)

- I went online to see how many books out there are telling us what we deserve. Here’s the list... (Share)
- The problem is that we believe it. We believe we do deserve better and someone owes it to me. We have bought into the lie of entitlement. This lie doesn’t produce any freedom. This lie leads us down the road of emotional bondage. We’ve become an unhappy culture!

Lie #2: I deserve better. This belief leaves us spiritually and emotionally bankrupt.

Numbers 11: Summarize Story:

I. The Bondage Of Entitlement

- When we start believing the lie that we DESERVE better, there is a progression that takes place. (It’s OK to desire something better / but we cross a line when we start believing we deserve it.)
- Believing that “I deserve better” is a lie.

A. We start making comparisons

Num. 11:4-6 “...and the people of Israel began to complain. ‘Oh, for some meat!’ they exclaimed. ‘We remember all the fish we used to eat for free in the land of Egypt. And we had all the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic that we wanted. But now our appetites are gone, and day after day we have nothing to eat but this manna!’” (NLT)

Num. 11:18 “...surely we were better off in Egypt!” (NLT) Comparisons.

- They began to compare their current situation with their former situation in Egypt.

1. Have you ever become frustrated with the situation you're in and then you started making comparisons with other people who you perceive have it better than you?
2. Start making comparisons at work / with the neighbor's house – yard – new toy in the driveway / comparing financial situations / compare kids / spouses / comparing how hard you work Vs others /
3. What comparisons do is confirm in your mind that you're getting the short end of the deal. You're getting the shaft. You're getting treated unfairly / unjustly / and something needs to change.
4. That's how the Israelites felt. All we have is this stinking manna!
 - Comparisons cause us to take another step towards entitlement. It's just another slippery slope to becoming miserable.

B. We ignore the blessings we do have

1. Yes, they were in a desert, but they were free / they were provided for daily / they were protected / they were supernaturally lead by God. They were on a journey – they hadn't arrived yet! They had the fulfillment of God's promise to look forward to. The destination – A country all their own) They forgot
2. Sometimes we lose sight of the blessings we have as well. Often our perspective is only focused on what we don't have instead of what blessings we do experience.
3. We can get so obsessed with what we wish we had, we completely ignore all the good things in our lives. It's as if they don't matter anymore. We are basically telling God it's not enough! (This is what the Israelites did!)
4. I struggle with this sometimes. I'm so forward thinking / goal oriented / accomplish the destination / that I can forget to see the blessings in the journey. Sometimes I get frustrated with where we're at as a church...wishing we were further down the road...wanting to experience
5. Sometimes the Lord just pulls me up short and tells me to stop ignoring all the blessings around me. Stop taking these good things for granted!
 - If we lose sight of the blessings we do have...

C. We lose our joy (satisfaction)

Num. 11:10 “Moses heard all the families standing in front of their tents weeping...” (NLT) I can't even imagine what 3 million whiners sounded like! The joy was gone!

1. Once we start making comparisons / lose sight of our blessings / we get unhappy pretty fast. The joy in our lives is gone.
2. Haven't you ever experienced this? I remember the first car I bought. 1977 Buick Skyhawk. I thought that car was the best. I bought chrome wheels / new tires / sheep-skin seat covers.

3. Then, my older brother bought a brand new 1982 Camaro. (They sat in the drive-way next to each other) I lost my joy! I wasn't that excited about my car anymore.
4. How often do we allow this to happen to us? We start making comparisons / lose sight of our blessings / and then get miserable. Where are you losing your joy because of this?
 - Then, we take the next step

D. We complain rather than request

Num. 11:13 "Where am I supposed to get meat for all these people? They keep complaining (to me) and saying, 'Give us meat!'" (NLT)

1. Instead of going to God with their request, they complained to Moses instead. It wasn't that it was wrong to want some meat. In fact, if they would have asked God instead of complained to Moses, God probably would have given it to them.
2. What's so bad with complaining? Complaining is a faithless response to the Circumstances / to your desires. We don't see God as our Provider, we see Him as the Denier! He's the One who is keeping good things from us.
3. Now we've come to the final conclusion. We complain because we believe we deserve these things / we are entitled to these things / and God is The One who is keeping them from me!
 - You're thinking, "I'm not blaming God!" Oh really...
4. We may blame our boss / other people / the economy / but the reality is we are not putting our trust in God for what we desire and that is faithless response. Your job / boss / other people / circumstances do not have more power than God to bless your life.
5. When you are blaming other people, you are indirectly blaming God. HOW? He's the One who has allowed them to be there / He's the One who has allowed certain circumstances in your life / Is He not Sovereign?
6. Even though the Israelites were not actually saying God wasn't good enough to them, that's really what they were saying. This is how God took it!

E. We experience negative results

- Notice God's perspective of their response.

Num. 11:20 "...for you have rejected the Lord, who is here among you, and you have complained against Him, 'Why did we ever leave Egypt?'" (NLT) God took it personal. Their entitlement was aimed at Him!

1. Notice God did not bring negative consequences upon their lives because they wanted some meat. The desire wasn't evil. It was because they rejected Him who was in their midst! They didn't trust in God's provision and they didn't trust in His plan. (Leaving Egypt)

2. Therefore, God gave them meat? Boy, did He! For an entire month they had to eat meat. God performed yet another miracle before their eyes. (Quail)
Some of them died in the process. - Consequences
3. Entitlement sets us up for negative consequences. God just may give you what you're whining about, but with it, will be curse not a blessing. It will rot in your mouth.
 - You may get that new house you think you deserve, but then you can't afford the mortgage / you're a slave to it.
 - You may get that new job / promotion / but now you have no time and the stress is unbearable
 - You took that vacation you deserve, and now you're trying to pay it off for the next 18 months.

Entitlement is a lie that will ruin your life. How do we protect ourselves from this in a culture that is constantly telling us "we deserve it".

II. The Protection From Entitlement

A. Resist making comparisons

Is. 41:10 "Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." (NASB)

Gal. 5:26 "Let us not become conceited or irritate one another, or be jealous of one another." (NLT)

1. It takes a conscious effort on our part to not make comparisons. To not anxiously look around you and envy what other people have or what they are experiencing. (Anxiously looking at the neighbors / other people /)
2. Some of you really struggle with this. You've already been making comparisons this morning. Comparing yourself with other people / comparing who's driving what / maybe evening comparing your food with what someone else brought.
3. Our Response: Lord forgive me for making comparisons – Let me be aware when I start mentally moving down this road. Ask God to help you see all the ways you compare.

B. Be thankful for what you do have

I Thess. 5:18 "In everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (NASB) Notice it said IN everything not FOR everything.

I Tim. 6:6 "But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. (NASB) If contentment doesn't accompany following Jesus, aren't we defeating the point a bit? Being a believer should produce GREAT JOY!

Heb. 13:5 “Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have...” (NASB) God’s will is for us to be content.

1. I believe that practicing being thankful is one of the best ways to stay focused on God’s goodness, His provision and experience His contentment.
2. Being thankful is a choice. Practicing thankfulness needs to be a habit – a spiritual habit / discipline for every believer. To stop as bad habit you must replace it with something else. This is it. Choose to be thankful rather than comparing.
3. When you catch your mind traveling down the comparison highway, choose to take the exit and get on the Thankfulness highway. Start thanking God for His provision / thank Him specifically for things /spouse – kids – possessions – job –
4. Start your day with thankfulness – replace comparisons with thankfulness.

C. Request rather than complain

Philip. 4:6-7 “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” (NLT)

1. Trust God with your desires / satisfaction / future / We must place our hope in Him not in the changing of the circumstances. Are you willing to pray about everything rather than complain about everything?
 - The Bible says to pray about everything. What does “everything” mean? EVERYTHING!!!
2. I think so many people just really struggle believing God cares about their desires. They think they are selfish, unspiritual, or God is unconcerned about them. So, they don’t pray about them.
3. How can we experience the peace these verses talk about if we don’t pray about them and give God the opportunity fulfill His word – giving us peace?
4. Requesting is an act of faith and dependence. This is what God loves to bless.
 - If we will do this...

D. Experience the generosity of God

Is. 30:18 “Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you...” (NASB)

1. Instead of falling into entitlement, God wants us to fall into dependence. He wants us to bring it all to Him. WHY? Because it’s all about relationship. Because God loves you, He LONGS to be gracious to you.
2. Entitlement cuts us off from the resources and blessing of God. Dependence opens up our lives to experience the graciousness of God that He is longing to bless you with.

3. God is literally waiting to demonstrate His compassion towards you. That's what it says. Are you giving God that opportunity?

If you've been believing the lie that you deserve better...

- Will you resist comparisons
- Will you practice thankfulness
- Will you request rather than complain
- Will you believe that God is longing to be gracious to you / will you open up your life to Him – will you depend on Him. This is truth that will literally set you free!