



RBC CONNECT GROUP STUDY FOR WEEK 21/6/20

RETURNING FROM THE DISRUPTION OF EXILE PART 2

As always, the following questions are discussion starters to the topic of faith. Feel free to explore what faith is as you begin your discussion.

Bible Reading: Exodus 16:1-3 & 6-9 & Jeremiah 31:3

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.'

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, 'In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?' ⁸ Moses also said, 'You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD.'

⁹ Then Moses told Aaron, 'Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'"

The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

Please note: As you share your responses to the questions and the text, take notes, as what you consider may be useful for the Diaconate as we look to gather together again after our isolation.

- 1) What word is used to describe God's people at this particular point in their history?
- 2) Why were they grumbling?
- 3) What was God's response to their grumbling?

4) What should they have been feeling?

I watched a message from another church last weekend and at its conclusion the speaker put out a challenge to the listeners. Take a moment and think of something you can be grateful for.

5) As you consider the past, present and future of this episode in the wilderness, what did they have to be grateful for? (List as much as you can.)

6) What have you to be grateful for?

7) As you consider RBC. What have we to be grateful for as a result of our time of isolation?

(Please keep a record of all responses to this question)

A synonym for gratefulness is thankfulness. In New Testament Greek, one aspect of thankfulness is:

- To acknowledge fully, to celebrate fully in praise with thanksgiving.

As we emerge from the cocoon we have been in, it might be timely to remind ourselves 'Be thankful *in* (not for) all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.' (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Prayer:

Come, let us celebrate the wondrous gifts that God has given us.

Throughout all our lives, God has blessed us with love and hope.

Praise be to God who provides for us. May our hearts be truly grateful,

and may we show our gratitude by the ways in which we live and care for others.

Amen.

Next Sunday: Returning from the Disruption of Exile Part 3 'Glorifying'.