

COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

What Are You Looking For?

Dear Friends:

I think we all have a tendency to desire contentment. I feel deeply for the Israelites when we read they wandered the desert for 40 years, seeking the land of Milk and Honey and knowing that the journey was full of hardship and challenge.

Forty years is a long time to do anything.

Funny thing was, the Israelites had ALREADY been in the land of Milk and Honey once before. Spies had gone in and come back with mixed reports. Some said it was full of good things. Others said it was full of giants. Both were right.

This biblical example of a 'glass half full, half empty' mentality shaped the journey of the Israelites much longer than the next 40 years. The mental callouses built up over those miles of rocks and sand helped the nation of Israel persevere when many others might not have made it so long.

The Jews have been defeated, disbanded, dispersed and persecuted since BEFORE the time of Jesus, yet they continue to meet and worship and celebrate a living God even at their own peril. Talk about a journey that shapes you. That walk in the desert for some has never ended.



Consider then the lyrics of the band U2 in the song "Still Haven't Found What I Am Looking For." Every Christian who attempts to follow Jesus through his crucifixion and resurrection has to admit that we are still longing for something that hasn't yet happened.

We want new life; we can see new expressions of Jesus forgiveness in our lives and those around us. We also can see that the world falls far short of true transformation as we destroy the garden God provided, harm people we don't trust or know, and see wide spread suffering in illness, hunger and disease that COULD be solved with the resources already in this world that are directed towards personal gain instead. There are flashes of the coming Kingdom that God promised, but we are not content yet. "We still haven't found what we are looking for..."

Come to worship on Sunday with us and we can admit together what we HAVE found, and what is STILL in front of us for the sake of Christ.

Peace to you,

Pastor Brian