

# Living in the Present – Lessons from Exodus 16

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“Would that we had died by the Lord’s hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” (v.3)

- ❖ Living in the Past – Three Forms, One Result
  - ❖ Reminiscent – Wishing for What Was
    - ❖ Job 29:2 – Particularly in times of trial
    - ❖ Causes emotions that prevent us from learning, persevering and growing in the Present (Jas. 1; Rom. 5)
  - ❖ The solution
    - ❖ Ecclesiastes 7:7-14 - Wisdom
    - ❖ Philippians 3:1-13 – Forgetting what lies behind



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- ❖ Living in the Past – Three Forms, One Result
  - ❖ Shame/Regret – The Distorted Mirror of our Mistakes
    - ❖ Do our past mistakes really define who we are now?
    - ❖ Is past performance really an indicator of future results?
  - ❖ The solution
    - ❖ I John 1:9 – Faithful and righteous to forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness
    - ❖ Hebrews 8:12 – Their sins I will remember no more



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## ❖ Living in the Past – Three Forms, One Result

### ❖ Past Sights/Grudges

❖ Affects trust

❖ Keep us and them from present fellowship

### ❖ The solution

❖ Matt. 6:15 – You will not be forgiven

❖ Consider – how arrogant is it to hold something over our own heads or the heads of others when God is not willing to do the same?



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- ❖ The Past is Important!
  - ❖ Understand failure so that we don’t repeat it
  - ❖ Understand success so that we do
  - ❖ Understand where we have come from – Eph. 2:11-13

“Don’t let yesterday use up too much of today.”

- *Cherokee Indian Proverb*

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Moses said to them, “Let no man leave any of it until morning.” But they did not listen to Moses, and left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul; and Moses was angry with them. (v.19-20)

- ❖ Looking Toward the Future
  - ❖ Fear/Anxiety – about the outcome of events or decisions
    - ❖ Based on our ability to tolerate uncertainty
    - ❖ Based on past performance/success
  - ❖ Hope/Desire
    - ❖ Our “happiness” depends on one (and only one) vision of the future coming true



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- ❖ Looking Toward the Future
  - ❖ Huge impact on the Present
    - ❖ Sin rooted in future – greed, lust, fear, ambition
    - ❖ Decreased faith and increased self-reliance
    - ❖ Compromises/ Bad decisions
    - ❖ Keeps us from doing today what we should do
    - ❖ “I’ll start (or stop) doing X when...”



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Then Moses said, “This is what the Lord has commanded, ‘Let an omerful of it be kept throughout your generations, that they may see the bread that I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.’” (v.32)

- ❖ The Solution – Trust in God to Deal with Tomorrow
  - ❖ Matt. 6:11 – “Give us *this day* our daily bread”
  - ❖ Matt. 6:25-34 – “Do not worry about tomorrow”
  - ❖ James 4:13-17
    - ❖ Life does not work out as we plan it
    - ❖ If the Lord wills (v.15)
    - ❖ Everything else is arrogance (v.16)
    - ❖ Not living in the moment is sin (v.17)

