

These complaining Israelites of Numbers 14 are the same people who pleaded with God for deliverance from Egypt. These are the same Israelites who saw God part the Red Sea and whom the Lord guided with His presence day and night (Numbers 14:14). And yet, these are the same Israelites who determined they should go back to Egypt in defeat at the first potential obstacle (Numbers 14:4) Why? Their eyes were on their circumstances, not their God. And Peter (Mark 14) was one of THE twelve disciples. He saw Jesus heal the lame, feed the five thousand, raise the dead to life. And yet, when Peter saw Jesus' trial, he could only see his own circumstances (and his potential death sentence by association) rather than his Lord.

It's easy to cluck our tongues at the Israelites' fearful outburst (Numbers 14:1) or Peter's denial of Jesus (Mark 14:68,70,71), however we may be better served to see ourselves in their responses. We can look back over our lives and see all the evidence of God's hand at work, or we can see our circumstances and throw our hands up in defeat, in action mimicking the fool of Psalm 53, who says there is no God (v. 1). This is our daily choice—to see our lives and react as Caleb and Joshua saw Canaan, knowing that God is with us (Numbers 14:7-9), or to react as the Israelites (and Peter) and deny His very existence by our complaining and/or fear.

Question of the day: Are your eyes on the Lord—your Provider and Deliverer—or your circumstances?

*God, please give me eyes today to see Your hand at work, and a heart that remembers all the faithful works of Your hand, that I might look to you in times of trouble and trust You, rather than be afraid because of my circumstances.*