

Marinating in God's Word: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

You've got mail! A letter sent long ago to someone else, now by the power of the Spirit has been forwarded to you, so that you may grow in Jesus Christ.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- What is a guilty pleasure that you find hard to resist (e.g., chocolate, cigars, a trashy TV show, etc.)? We sometimes laugh off lower stakes vices and the temptation toward them. But not all vices are low stakes. Can you think of ways you've rationalized that the stakes are low when really they are not?
- Paul begins this chapter by recalling some of the people of Israel's assets. What stories is he alluding to in vv. 1-4? How does he see these events as symbols of our life as disciples? What are our assets?
- In v. 4 Paul alludes to the Exodus 17 and Numbers 20 stories of water coming from a rock. The popular explanation was that the rock followed Israel in order to produce water again. Paul draws another symbolic conclusion. What is it? How does this make sense?
- In vv. 7-10 Paul recounts how Israel failed, so that we might not fail (v. 6, 11). How did they fail? What is the scriptural wisdom here and elsewhere for how to resist temptation?
- Is temptation shameful? Why or why not? What are the promises he gives in v. 13 for us as we resist temptation?

Next week we will focus on 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.