

## **The Maze**

Have you ever felt that God was just using you for His own purposes and that He didn't really care about what was best for you? Perhaps you felt that if you obey God, life will be a boring, no fun at all, and you would miss out on all the good things in life.

Once upon a time there was a professor who was doing an experiment with mice running through a maze. He had worked long and hard and had finally developed a device which he called a communicator that allowed him to talk to the mice. He wanted to prove that the communicator worked by giving mice instructions as they ran through the maze so that they would get through much quicker.

Now this professor had an assistant that had been with him for many years, but as the professor became more famous, the assistant became more and more jealous of his fame. So he plotted secretly to ruin the professor's experiment and embarrass him before his colleagues.

At last everything was ready. The maze and the communicator were complete. The running of the maze would begin tomorrow. But the assistant had made his plans well. He crept back into the laboratory at night and using the communicating device, began to speak to the mice. "Tomorrow, the professor will take you out of your cages and turn you loose to run in his maze. Remember, this may be your first and last opportunity for freedom, to do your own thing, you know. The professor will try to direct you, to tell you what direction to take. Don't listen to him. Don't trust him. He wants you to miss out on all the fun. He just wants you to get through the maze as quickly as possible for the sake of his experiment and then back into your cages for the rest of your lives. You will have no fun at all if you listen to him. Besides, you really can't trust him. Trust yourself and your own instincts to guide you and you will have a great time on the way. There is food to enjoy and things to see. You may even enjoy stopping and visiting with friends or playing with one another."

After planting the seeds of mistrust and rebellion in the minds of the mice, he proceeded to carry out the rest of his plan. The professor, of course, had included blind alleys, but the assistant added booby-traps. For you see, he also hated the mice. His plan was to get them all killed off so that none would make it through the maze and the experiment would be totally ruined. So he rigged an electric shock device here and there. He cut a hole in the floor so the mice would fall through and the laboratory cat would get them. Here he put some poisoned food and there he put a pool of water to drown them. He put splintered glass on some pathways and oil and grease on others. Everything

evil he could think of he did to harass and eventually to destroy the mice. He wanted to make sure none escaped his nefarious plans.

Now when morning arrived, the professor came into the laboratory to start the experiment. He saw at once that something was amiss and realized that his maze had been tampered with. But there was not time to undo all the evil that had been done and to redo the whole maze, for he had a deadline to meet and the maze had to be run today. Then he thought, "Really, all this should not be a problem because I can communicate with the mice and I will warn them when they are approaching a dangerous situation and I will guide them around it."

And so he went over to the cages and turned them loose into the maze. Most of the mice had listened to the assistant the night before and had decided that they did not trust the professor to have their best interests at heart, but was only concerned with his experiment. So these all went in whatever direction they decided and did not listen to the professor. Only one mouse decided to listen to the professor from the start, and he went safely through the maze, avoiding all obstacles and dangers. However, one by one the rebellious mice were being caught. Some died of poison and some the cat got. Some were drowned and some electrocuted. Some were just harassed and tormented by cut paws and greasy fur so that they were afraid to move anymore. Some had narrow escapes where they were almost killed or ate only enough poison to get sick.

Eventually, some of these mice started to realize that the assistant had lied to them. It really did make sense to allow the one who made the maze to guide them rather than to try to figure out a safe way by themselves through trial and error. They realized the assistant had told them a half-truth. Yes, if they followed the professor they would miss out on a lot: the cat, the poison, the electricity, the cut paws, etc. They decided they would gladly miss out on all those harmful things.

The professor was very glad when he saw them change their minds and start listening to him through the communicator. For what the mice didn't know was the professor had something special planned for the mice at the end of the maze. Since the experiment was over and he had no further use for them, he would turn them loose outside and give them their freedom.

His experiment was a great success, in fact, better than he had planned. For if the communicator had not have worked, it would have been impossible for any mouse to make it through the maze alive. But the ones who listened to him, and only the ones who listened to him, came through it safely. All the others perished.

Jer. 29:11  
2 Tim. 2:25-26  
Fom 16:17 & 18