

AUTHENTIC

living real

Pastor Ed Kemp

MESSAGE NOTES

Sunday, May 3

Numbers 11:4-34

4 The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat! 5 We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. 6 But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!"

7 The manna was like coriander seed and looked like resin. 8 The people went around gathering it, and then ground it in a hand mill or crushed it in a mortar. They cooked it in a pot or made it into loaves. And it tasted like something made with olive oil. 9 When the dew settled on the camp at night, the manna also came down.

10 Moses heard the people of every family wailing at the entrance to their tents. The LORD became exceedingly angry, and Moses was troubled. 11 He asked the LORD, "Why have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me? 12 Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their ancestors? 13 Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, 'Give us meat to eat!' 14 I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me. 15 If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me—if I have found favor in your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin."

16 The LORD said to Moses: "Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the tent of meeting, that they may stand there with you. 17 I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them. They will share the burden of the people with you so that you will not have to carry it alone.

18 "Tell the people: 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat. The LORD heard you when you wailed, "If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!" Now the LORD will give you meat, and you will eat it. 19 You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days, 20 but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it—because you have rejected the LORD, who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"'"

21 But Moses said, "Here I am among six hundred thousand men on foot, and you say, 'I will give them meat to eat for a whole month!' 22 Would they have

enough if flocks and herds were slaughtered for them? Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?"

23 The LORD answered Moses, "Is the LORD's arm too short? Now you will see whether or not what I say will come true for you."

24 So Moses went out and told the people what the LORD had said. He brought together seventy of their elders and had them stand around the tent. 25 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took some of the power of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied—but did not do so again.

26 However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp. 27 A young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp."

28 Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide since youth, spoke up and said, "Moses, my lord, stop them!"

29 But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!" 30 Then Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

31 Now a wind went out from the LORD and drove quail in from the sea. It scattered them up to two cubits deep all around the camp, as far as a day's walk in any direction. 32 All that day and night and all the next day the people went out and gathered quail. No one gathered less than ten homers. Then they spread them out all around the camp. 33 But while the meat was still between their teeth and before it could be consumed, the anger of the LORD burned against the people, and he struck them with a severe plague. 34 Therefore the place was named Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had craved other food.

So What?!

We need to be grateful for God's:

#1. Purpose

"Consecrate yourselves..." vs. 18

#2. Provision

...because you have rejected the LORD, vs. 20
Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven." John 6:41

#3. People

"Bring me seventy of Israel's elders...I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them. vs. 16-17

I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!" vs. 29
...the Lord appointed 70 and sent them...they returned with joy..."Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that our names are recorded in heaven." Luke 10:1-24
...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses... Acts 1:8

We have a tendency to demand God's assistance but demean God's provision.

notes

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read: Numbers 11

Let's look at the 3 applications from the message on Numbers 11.
The story of Moses in Numbers 11 is battling a small group of people whose purpose seems to be the, "persistent activity of complaint!" Have you gone through a season in life where you complained a lot? Did it make you happier or crankier? How did you get out of the habit? Did anyone ever confront you on your complaining attitude?

Have you ever written a purpose statement for your life? If you have what is your purpose in life? If you've never written a purpose, what would you like to be your purpose? The Westminster Shorter Catechism states, "Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." How do you glorify God, name at least 3 ways. How do you enjoy God, name at least 3 ways.

The reason the rabble complain is that they are tired of God's provision of manna all the time and want meat! One of the items inside the Ark of the Covenant is a jar of manna to remind God's people that they rejected God's provision. How have you complained about God's provision in your life? Do you think you appreciate God's provision deeply enough? Are you truly grateful for all He has given you? What are the top 3 things God has provided for you that you would never want to give up? Can you stop and pray right now and thank God for what He has given to you.

The last application is people. God brought 70 people alongside Moses so he wouldn't feel or be alone. Who are the people that come alongside you to encourage and assist you? Jesus had a group of 12 disciples and then a group of 70 for ministry. Do you have a small group of close friends and then a larger group of more social friends? Who do you talk to when you get discouraged? To whom do you tell exciting news? Do you spend enough time with the people you're close to, to deepen your friendship?

Family Time: Read Numbers 11:16-17 to your kids and ask them who their best friends are and why they're their best friends. Do they help their best friends when they have a problem?