

From Sinners to Saints

I Corinthians 10:1-11

- Paul now gives this fairly new Church with all its struggles and all its problems an example of what happens when people who so graciously receive God's abundant grace and mercy take it for granted and began to sink back into their old way of thinking and living. Chapter ten is an amazing reminder of God's faithfulness even in the midst of man's unfaithfulness, and how He is a promise Keeper.

V1-11

- **V1-5** to the Corinthians who remember were abusing their liberties, taking advantage of the grace that's been given to them, being set free from sin and bondage, and yet here they are getting drunk at the communion table, suing one another, practicing sexual immorality, and boasting in their sin.
- So Paul says you know who else did this (Israel), they enjoyed God's privileges, being supernaturally set free from Egypt, guided by a cloud by day, and protected with a fire at night, being led exactly to where God wanted them to go. All of them walked on the dry bed of the Sea, while God Miraculously held back the waters of the Sea and its waves from crashing down on them while they escaped into the wilderness.
- Baptism in scripture have many different meanings, here it means to identify with, Israel acknowledged Moses leadership and authority in their life, he was God's chosen man to lead them through the wilderness, even though they rebelled against him multiple times even threatened to kill him a few times, yet God preserved him.
- Who can forget how they all enjoyed God's spiritual food, (the manna) that fell from heaven every single day without fail, God never forgot to cook did He. I love how when the Disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray > **Lk 11:1-4** He began with reverence to God, furthering His Kingdom not ours, and The Lord's provision for us.
- Notice Jesus didn't tell us to ask for our weekly bread, monthly bread, or yearly bread, but for our daily bread, God providing for us His people every single day. You know what God still knows the recipe for manna, He hasn't forgotten, He is still dropping heavenly bread from glory, and supernaturally providing for His people, while we continue to walk in this wilderness on our way to our promise land Heaven.

- Scripture even called the water that came out of The Rock (spiritual drink) because in **Ex 17:1-7** it came after Israel murmured and complained threatening to even kill Moses if He didn't find them something to drink. God called the water out of a rock, and here in **V4** of 1Cor 10 says that Rock was a spiritual representation of Jesus.
- He was providing for them in the wilderness while they complained and plotted murder, after that place was called tempting (Massa) and strife (Meribah) they strove with Moses. After explaining all these blessings Paul tells them that God was not pleased with them, as history says it was over three million people who left Egypt but only two that entered into the promised land, and he will give the reason why.
- **V6-10** Lust, Idolatry, Sexual Immorality, presumption in questioning the plans and purposes of God, murmuring and complaining. Before we get into these go back to **V1** when Paul began this section he tells a gentile Church for that is what the Corinthians were, not to be unaware of what happened to their fathers.
- Those were Jewish people and yet Paul calls them the fathers or relatives of the gentile church why? Because our relations is not in natural blood but spiritual, for our citizenship is where in heaven not on the earth **Philip 3:20**.
- Five things Paul lists that caused a spiritually privileged people to fail miserably in their quest to leave the wilderness and enter the promised land, despite having all the advantages one could have ever wanted, we need to pay close attention lest we repeat their mistakes amen!
- Lust is desiring or craving that which is not for you, in other words they wanted what God had not intended for them Num 11, throughout the entire chapter. People in the church are doing this today, leaving what scripture says is right in the sight of God for that which scripture says is wrong, and justifying it.
- Idolatry, Immorality, presumption is two sides of the same coin, for at its root is man's attempt to try and get his way, so he will put things in place of God (idolatry) do things that please him not God (immorality) and justify it by murmuring and complaining that God's way is wrong and impossible to do (presumption).

- **V11** so what should we do? Paul says learn from it, for those who forget and ignore the past are preparing themselves to repeat it. We need to study the attitudes and actions of the Israelites, for people by the grace of God there go I. We are no different than them, we are prone to complain, murmur, lust, put things before The Lord, give into our fleshly desires, our protection is to do the opposite of Israel, for that to happen we need to know what they did, and avoid it Paul says.
- For they are our examples and God wrote it for our admonition, a warning to us who also are privileged, we have something better than what Israel had, better than the pillar of cloud by day and the fire by night, we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us to guide us, The Word of God to teach us, and Jesus Christ Who died and saved us
- They didn't have any of these things then, so we are more privileged than they are, that means where much is given much is required, there is an even greater expectation on us the Church than on them in the wilderness. But take comfort we are not to try and do this alone, we have God's Spirit, God's Word, God's people, and God's Son, and we have God's promise, that He will never leave us nor forsake us.