

From Captivity to the Wilderness: “The Seed of Unfaithfulness”
Numbers 20:1-13
Sept 24, 2023

I. A pattern of sin (vs 1-5)

1. Same ol’... same ol’ (vs 1)
2. A “stiff necked” people (vs 2-5)

II. The failure to trust God (vs 6-11)

1. The experience of grace (vs 6-8)
2. The experience of anger (vs 9-11)

“Anger is an expression of frustration, fear and hurt, and these feelings turn into anger in order to disguise what we are really feeling. Anger is a form of dishonest emotional expression.” H Norman Wright

III. The judgment from a holy God (vs 12-13)

1. Disobedience has consequences (vs 12)
2. No exemptions to the consequences (vs 13)

Exodus 17:7

(1) Sin must and will be punished by the holy God.

Numbers 14:18

(2) God still offers grace to discontented sinners.

LET’S GO DEEPER

1. What benefits could have been accomplished during the forty years in the desert? Do you see any similarities to Hebrews 9:27 and the 40-year judgment on Israel? What spiritual conclusions can you see?
2. What do you learn from this chapter about God’s attitude toward disobedience?
3. Why do you think Moses disobeys here, and why is it such a big deal to God? What does it mean when God says, “*you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites?*”
4. What else sticks out to you from this chapter? What takeaways do you have from the message this week?