

Numbers 11-12 –5 November 2020

“The Key To Contentment”

Introduction

*In Num 9-10, Israel is **actually moving** toward the Promised Land for the 1st time since receiving the Law & Tabernacle

They're no longer leaving slavery; they been IDed w/ Jehovah God

They took their 1st steps toward freedom in obedience to God and His will!

It's only took 3 days to travel from Sinai to where they're at in Paran.....and the disobedience begins

But Why? B/c of unbelief! (Read Heb 3:8-12)

Christianity **isn't** a religion of doing that we belief in, it's a practice of believing that motivates us to doing!

Today, we'll see 3 sources of unbelief that lead to not trusting God

1st source of our unbelief is that we become discontent with what we have (Chap 11:1-10)

Read Chap 11:1-3

1. Doesn't say specifically what they were complaining about
2. Meaning: *to murmur, to mourn*
3. "What's happening isn't good"
4. Notice when Moses talked to God, the punishment stopped.
 - a. God's looking for us to come to Him for the solution.

Read Chap 11:4-6

1. Mixed multitude are those of foreign nations that came out of Egypt with them
2. They lusted (sinfully craved) "better" food than manna God was providing, like the Egyptian food
 - a. Notice they didn't remember their bonds!
 - b. Maybe they should be comparing their past slave life to their present eternal life w/ God!

Read Chap 11:7-9

1. So the description of the manna
2. The problem is...we don't trust God to provide properly for us of His good hand what is best
3. Read Deut 8:2-3
4. Had they learned trust in God, the manna would have ceased in only a year instead of 40 yrs

Read Chap 11:10

1. This is unjustified weeping
 - a. B/c of their dissatisfaction in God
 - b. B/c of their unbelief of how God is leading
2. Discontentment comes from missing your expectations
 - a. A soccer player that's used to getting new shoes before each game is discontent if he doesn't
 - b. A soccer player that's used to getting new shoes before each season is discontent if he doesn't
 - c. Read John 16:33 – Expect ups & downs
 - i. What you've been given, that's eternal?

2nd source of our unbelief is that we become discontent with who we are (Chap 11:11-15)

Read Chap 11:11

1. Notice he saw his leadership role as a burden
2. Some would be loving the power, take charge

Read Chap 11:12-15

1. Moses is saying, “I can’t provide for them”
 - a. You’re right Moses
 - b. Takes faith to believe that God will provide for them thru you
2. Moses is overwhelmed, lacks faith & complains
3. What should be the solution?
 - a. Moses should work harder to provide? No
 - b. Moses should lack faith & feel inadequate? (Like he is doing) No
 - c. Moses should trust God to make him who he needs to be for the job at hand!
4. We’re always inadequate, but God is ALWAYS adequate for the job!

Now in vs 16-20 God answers the people's complaint and Moses' complaint

Read Vs 16-17

1. God does appoint 70 leaders to aid Moses in leading.
 - a. These 70 aren't the Judges that are set up at Jethro's request of Moses in Exo 18
 - b. These 70 later become the model for Israel's leadership in the N.T. period
2. This demonstrates that what Moses was dealing w/ was a very real problem, that of leading Israel
 - a. But the solution wasn't for Moses to be discontent with his ability to lead.
 - b. The solution was for Moses to trust God to lead the people thru God's power.

Read Vs 18-20

1. God will give them different food, but not b/c it's the best plan for them.
2. When we despise the best, God will allow us less

Now in vs 21-23 Moses doubles down on his unbelief

Read Vs 21-23

1. God doesn't often tell us the "hows", but wants us to trust in his power and ability.
 - a. Mark 4:35 – "Let us pass over to the other side." How Lord? He doesn't say.
 - b. Dan 3:17-18 – Maybe God delivers us from the fire, maybe not, but we won't serve you.
2. Read Jer 32:17 - Has your faith grown to the point that you can say, 'nothing is too difficult for my God?'

Now in vs 24-35 the needed leaders are provided & quail is given for their lust for food

Read Vs 24-25

1. H.S. didn't indwell all believers back then
2. H.S. was given to them, not spirit of Moses
3. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called by giving them His Holy Spirit!

Read Vs 26-30

1. H.S. isn't limited to location – H.S. is for a person not for a place (church bldg.)
2. Vs 29 – Moses never had pride of position – this is important as we look at chap 12

Read Vs 31-35

1. There is a season, even today, that quail migrate thru the region
2. These were either sick or they didn't cook them well enough.
3. Their lustful craving not only didn't satisfy them but it literally became their grave

3rd source of our unbelief is that we become discontent with where we are (Chap 12:1-16)

Read Chap 12:1-3

1. Vs 1 – Ethiopian wife was most likely not Zipporah but a 2nd wife, (Moses lived 120 years)
 - a. Ethiopian is same as Cushite from Cush
 - i. Very dark-skinned African people
 - ii. Moses black wife was the catalysis that brought out Miriam’s discontent heart.
2. Vs 2 – Miriam wanted power & pride of position
 - a. Remember, Moses never asked for position
 - b. He never bragged about or abused position
 - c. Vs 3 say he was meek (restrained power)
3. As w/ us, Miriam doesn’t trust that God is giving us good enough purpose, there’s a jealousy
 - a. Miriam isn’t content w/ where she is in life
 - b. Her role, given by God, isn’t good enough
4. As Moses felt he was inadequate for his role, Miriam feels she over-adequate for her role!

Read Chap 12:4-9

1. The Lord chooses to immediately deal with Miriam & Aaron's discontentment
2. The Lord says that Moses is more special than even a prophet, b/c He speaks to Moses directly
3. God is saying, "It's evident thru watching my relationship w/ Moses that he has a special position & role that I have given him".
4. The warning from God is this: 'don't try taking another person's glory, but grateful for the glory of the role God has given you'.

Read Chap 12:10-13

1. Interesting that God judges w/ white leprosy when Miriam complained about a black woman
2. Notice vs 11 there is confess (always required)

Read Chap 12:14-16

1. Idea: If her earthly father disciplined her, would be recognized 1 wk, shouldn't it be at least same?

Conclusion

The root & source of unbelief is discontentment

Not believing that God is truly in control of life

Not believing that God know what He's doing

1. Are you satisfied w/ what you have?

- a. God's priority is solving our eternal problem, the earthly problems are minor
 - i. Exp: Neck cut vs. finger-splinter
- b. When we look w/ jealousy at those prospering physically, remember our spiritual prosperity that will last for eternity

2. Are you satisfied w/ who you are? (or do you get down on yourself)

- a. We're not adequate for the job!!
- b. God wants us to allow Him to work thru us, by faith, and watch miracles happen!
- c. Then we can say, "wow, God did that"!

3. Are you satisfied w/ where you are?

- a. God has gifted you for the role you have
- b. Does your role seem like a small duty? It's not!
 - i. Exp: Soccer goalie was dejected b/c his team won but he never got to touch the ball or make a great play.
 - ii. Exp: The day came that he made the game-winning stop to win the championship!
 - iii. God has made you valuable and God has made your role valuable!
- c. Remember that the next time you envy another's role

In Chap 13 – Israel will be at Kadesh-Barnea on the edge of the Promised Land & ready to send spies