



“Misplaced Fear”

Pastor Jason West | October 29, 2023

Shiloh Community Church

(Numbers 13:1-2a, 25-33; 14:1-2)

I. Misplaced _____

A. Fear That Comes From _____

Genesis 3:7 “Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.”

B. Fear of _____

1. Abraham

(Genesis 12:11-13; 20:2)

Genesis 22:12 “He said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.’”

2. Saul

(1 Samuel 15:24)

3. Pharisees

(John 7:45-49; 12:42-43)

4. Peter

(Galatians 2:11-13; 1 Peter 3:13-15; Luke 22:61)

Matthew 26:69-70 “Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, ‘You also were with Jesus the Galilean.’ But he denied it before them all, saying, ‘I do not know what you mean.’”

Matthew 26:71-72 “And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, ‘This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.’ And again he denied it with an oath: ‘I do not know the man.’”

Matthew 26:73-74 “After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, ‘Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.’ Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, ‘I do not know the man.’ And immediately the rooster crowed.”

C. Moses Has a Consistent Message From _____ – Fear God Rather Than _____

1. God Has Already Done the _____

Deuteronomy 1:21 “See, the Lord your God has set the land before you. Go up, take possession, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has told you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

2. God Has a _____

Deuteronomy 3:2a “But the Lord said to me, ‘Do not fear him, for I have given him and all his people and his land into your hand.’”

3. God _____ for You

Deuteronomy 3:22 “You shall not fear them, for it is the Lord your God who fights for you.”

4. Teach Your _____ to Fear God

Deuteronomy 4:10 “how on the day that you stood before the Lord your God at Horeb, the Lord said to me, ‘Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.’”

5. Do What God Says

Deuteronomy 5:29 “Oh that they had such a heart as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever!”

6. _____ What God Has Done!

Deuteronomy 7:17-18 “If you say in your heart, ‘These nations are greater than I. How can I dispossess them?’ you shall not be afraid of them but you shall remember what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt,”

7. God Will Not _____ You

Deuteronomy 31:6 “Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

8. God is With You and Goes Before You

Deuteronomy 31:8 “It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

D. Encounter the _____ of the Lord

1. Through _____

Psalms 33:8-9 “Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.”

2. Through God's _____

3. Through _____



October 29, 2023

1. Familiarize Yourself With the Passage

- a. Read Numbers 14
- b. Read the context around the narrative
- c. Note repetition of words, content, and ideas

2. Literary Context

- a. Literary Context: Human civilization is riddled with mutinies of various kinds. The Israelites were not immune to their own mutinies in rebellion against God. Numbers 11 tells of one of the first complaints upon setting out from Mount Sinai toward the promised land. God consumed some of them with fire, but a group of them still had a strong disposition to lead the people into vocalized complaints about their food (11:4). They wanted meat in addition to their manna. Following this, Miriam and Aaron opposed Moses' leadership (12:1-16). Leading up to chapter 14, upon reaching the promised land, the majority of Israel, led by 10 of the 12 spies, shrunk back in fear refusing to go into the land and take what God promised them. In Numbers 16 and 20, two more acts of rebellion and complaining occur. The people of Israel showed repeated expressions of dishonor and disobedience to the Lord, who saved them from slavery.
- b. Historical/Cultural Context: Numbers 14:8 references the promised land as a place that flows with milk and honey. Some have thought that this is simply a metaphor for the plethora of food in the land. On the contrary, there is a literal factor to this that there would have been an abundance of milk and honey in the promised land.¹ The land allowed for the development of cattle and animals and the growth of herds, which would have increased the Israelites milk supply tremendously. There has also been the discovery of a beehive industry operation at Tel Rehov, which informs us that honey and beehives were in abundance in the land of Israel.² Honey would have been a desired commodity not just for food, but also to be used for worship ceremonies in Egypt, medicinal purposes, and gifts to special guests. The Egyptians used honey and beehives for a variety of life applications.³ Moses could have had this knowledge and passed it down prior to his death, which is how such a large industry would have come about during the Davidic and Solomonic reigns in Israel.³

3. Questions about the Passage

- a. What do the numerous accounts of rebellion and complaining throughout the book of Numbers tell you about the people of Israel? What attributes about God do these repeated accounts highlight for us and how do they show you more of the glory of God?

- b. Why do you think Israel decided to go up against the Canaanites and Amalekites in Numbers 14:39-45, especially after God just pronounced judgment and Moses told them that God would not be with them (Numbers 14:42)?
- c. How does Numbers 14 balance God's justice and mercy? How does this help you grow in reverent fear of God and relentless pursuit of His mercy and grace (Hebrews 4:16)?

4. From the Passage to Life

- a. Do you sense any rebellion in your life toward God? How might you be going against a specific passage in Scripture that applies to your life?
- b. Israel struggled in their relationship with God by wanting to go back to their former life of slavery (Numbers 14:1-4). Do you struggle with wanting to go back to your former life of sin before you knew Christ? How can this story help you fight against that?
- c. Numbers 14:11 shows us that rebellion or disobedience to any of God's commands is a sign of unbelief. What aspects about God are you struggling to believe in a specific situation?
- d. In addition to Moses, God used other people like Joshua and Caleb to speak up to warn the people of their faithlessness and call them to obedience (Numbers 14:6-10). Are there any people God is putting in your life who are calling you to greater obedience that you are not listening to? What step can you take to listen to their wisdom?

¹ Edwin M. Yamauchi & Marvin R. Wilson, Dictionary of Daily Life in Biblical and Post-biblical Antiquity (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2017), 1194.

² Amihai Mazar and Nava Panitz-Cohen, "It is the Land of Honey: Beekeeping at Tel Rehov." NEA 70: 202-219.

³ Mazar and Panitz-Cohen, 214.