

Remnant Life Church
September 8, 2013

Be Careful What You Wish For

Numbers 11

- Have you ever wanted something so badly you would have done almost anything to get it and then later, when it did not happen, you were very happy that it did not?
- Have you ever found that the anticipation and desire to have something far outweighed the joy of actually having it?
- How do we deal with the natural desire that we each have to obtain, gather or improve on what we already have?

Numbers 11

1. The book of Numbers is an historical continuation of Exodus
 2. Its name is in regard to the two censuses or numberings that are done to determine the number of fighting men in the nation
 - a. First a year after leaving Egypt
 - b. Second 38 years later as they were getting ready to enter Canaan
 3. The name given this book in the Hebrew is “In the Desert” or the “Book of Murmurings”
 - a. A little over 1 year in the desert out of Egypt
 - b. God was establishing His covenant with the people, giving Moses the law, and laying out the pattern for the tabernacle
 - c. They then take a brief trip to Kadesh (10:11)
 - d. It is here that that the spies come back and are filled with disbelief except for the 2 (Joshua and Caleb) and God’s judgment is that none of the men who saw God’s miracles in Egypt would enter the promised land (13-14)
- Three days into their journey to Kadesh the people begin to complain
 - e. These are the very same people who watched the 10 plagues come on Egypt yet spare them
 - f. They had crossed the Red Sea on dry land then watched the army die as the water covered them
 - g. They had a supernatural pillar of bright cloud at day and a pillar of fire by night as a constant reminder of God’s presence
 - h. Given water and food in the desert (2-3 million people)
 - i. BUT THEY STILL COMPLAINED ABOUT WHAT THEY DID NOT HAVE
 - ii. Complaining in the face of God’s power, mercy, and love is the height of pride and self-centeredness
 - Their complaint was that they were getting tired of the manna
 - The manna that God was supernaturally supplying for them
 - The manna that was keeping them alive
 - The manna that they did not deserve

- They were always so willing to bring up what they had in the past
 - Egypt was 600 years of forced slave labor
 - They only remembered the “good” of all the food - what satisfied their basic need (11:5)
 - Don’t we also do the same thing with things of our past?
- God warned them with fire from the outset (11:1)
 - God is not simply waiting for us to fall so He can punish us
 - God’s patience and love will often result in warnings
 - Do we listen?
- They still complained and God granted them what they wanted
 - Quail have a natural migratory path that goes over the Sinai region
 - Arab’s have reported catches of 1 to 2 million birds using nets
 - The quail were all around (outside) the camp (v 31)
 - Where was the ark?
 - In the center of camp
 - The things of God will always draw you toward Him never away
 - Their insatiable appetites and lust led them to gather so much that got sick from eating so much – **got what they asked for**
 - God sent a plague as punishment for their greed (v 33)

• **What were the great mistakes these people made?**

1. They allowed their fleshly desires to rule their hearts
 - a. The flesh will always try and rule the spirit
 - b. We have been given, in Jesus Christ, the power to keep it in check
 - i. **Phil. 4:13** – *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*
 - c. **CHOICES**
2. Their focus turned completely in on themselves
 - a. We live in a time of the individual
 - b. BGEA
 - i. Billy Graham; George Beverly Shea; Cliff Barrows
 - ii. Ministry began in 1947;
 1. 29 years old
 2. Civic Auditorium, Grand Rapids, MI
 - iii. God used what was needed
 1. William Randolph Hurst - newspaper
 2. Henry Luce – SI, Life, Fortune mags
 3. “Puff Graham”
3. They did not trust God to supply their needs
 - a. They did not go to God they went to Moses (v 2)
 - b. Took more than they needed
 - i. Each a minimum of 80 bushels
 - ii. Rule of the manna
 - iii. Only enough for one day – trust God

4. They allowed gluttony and lust to overcome them

- a. **Psalm 78 and 106** – lust drives us away from God
- b. Drive to satisfy the flesh is contrary to God's plan
- c. *Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.* **Mark 14:38**

- Ask God for His will not just to give you what you want
 - Christians often convince ourselves that because God loves us He MUST want to give us more
 - Our desire for His will in our lives must be the first desire of our hearts
- Look for what the Word says
- Seek the council of Godly people you can trust