

# **“I Quit!”**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

A. A small monument made from a few stones marks the spot on Mount Washington where a young girl died on bitterly cold night. Yet, her death was something that did not need to happen. It seems that she and her father had decided to climb the mountain without hiring a guide. As darkness fell and the cold sapped the last of their strength, they became discouraged and sat down on the trail. During the night the girl died from exposure and heart failure due to the cold. In the morning, her grieving father discovered that if they had walked just a few more feet they would have seen the lights of a place called "Tiptop Cabin" where a fire in the hearth would have warmed their bodies, a place where they would have been safe and protected from cold and death. What kept them from reaching that place of safety? Discouragement

B. Num. 11:1-25 - Moses was discouraged to the point of asking for death.

## **I. PROBLEMS MOSES PONDERED**

A. Num. 11:1-10

1. As the problems added up, he allowed himself to become discouraged.

B. Moses had a people problem - Num. 11:1-3

1. Anytime there is a relationship between two people there will always be potential for problems.

2. "To live above with saints we love, oh won't that be glory!

But to love below with saints we know, well that's another story!"

3. Biblical solutions to people problems:

a. Love them like Jesus loves them - Matt. 22:39

b. Forgive them of everything every time they repent - Eph. 4:32

c. Pray for them every day. It is impossible to pray for someone from the heart and hate them at the same time - 1Tim. 2:1-3

C. Moses had a provision problem - Num. 11:4-9 (bdellium - iridescent black)

1. Moses was leading 2 million people through the wilderness and they had nothing to eat but Manna.

2. Moses forgot that God did not call him to feed the children of Israel. He called Moses to lead the children of Israel. It was God's responsibility to feed them.

3. If we are endeavoring to faithfully serve the Lord, then our provisional problems are His problems to solve and not ours.

a. He is Jehovah-jireh - Gen. 22:11-14

b. Matt. 6:25-33; Phil. 4:6-7, 19

c. Whittling on God's end of the stick.

D. Moses had a personal problem - Num. 11:10

1. "Displeased" (ra'a'ayin) - "an eye that sees a world broken in pieces."  
(David Levithan, Hebrew Dictionary)

2. It happens to the best of us at times.

a. Elijah - 1Kings 19; Jonah - Jonah 4

## **II. PRAYERS MOSES PRAYED**

- A. Num. 11:11-15 - Moses' prayer to God reveals the condition of his heart
  - 1. Psalm 35 - David's imprecatory prayer.
  - 2. Sometimes we do not know what to pray for - Rom. 8:26-27
  - 3. While it is sinful to rail against God, many Bible persons cried out to God in anguish of soul; it was the beginning point of their recovery.
- B. Moses prayed from his confusion - Num. 11:11-12
  - 1. Moses lost control of the situation and couldn't understand why. He failed to remember that the details are God's responsibility, not his.
  - 2. People often pray "Why me!?" There is no good answer to our why questions.
  - 3. We need to learn to ask two different questions:
    - a. "Why not me?" - John 16:33; Job 14:1 Why should we expect to live lives free from trouble? Learn to give thanks in the midst of trouble - 1Thes. 5:18.
    - b. "What will I learn?" - Rom. 8:28
    - c. Thomas Watson said, "Affliction is the furnace in which God refines His gold." What new view of God am I going to get from this vantage point?" The question "What?" will produce far more satisfying answers than the question "Why?!"
- C. Moses prayed his confession - Num. 11:12b-14
  - 1. He saw, felt, and confessed his weaknesses. He knew that he was insufficient to the task at hand.
  - 2. 2Cor. 12:7-10 - If sermons are prepared and preached; if souls are saved; if the sick are comforted; if the needs of people's hearts are met, then it will be the Lord who will do it through me and others. We are insufficient to the task without Him.
- D. Moses prayed capitulation - Num. 11:15
  - 1. Moses gives God an ultimatum - "Get me out of this mess or kill me."
  - 2. It is one thing to reach the end of our rope, but it is another matter entirely to tie a loop in the end and hang ourselves - 1Cor. 15:58

### III. THE PRICE MOSES PAID

- A. Num. 11:16-25 - Whenever we come to the place that we allow the problems of life to become bigger than God, there will be a price to pay.
- B. Moses paid a price in authority - Num. 11:16-17
  - 1. Moses now must share leadership with 70 other men.
  - 2. When the time comes that we cannot carry out the responsibilities given to us by the Lord, He will find others to do His work.
- C. Moses paid a price in association - Num. 11:25
  - 1. Moses failed to recognize that he already possessed all he needed to get the job done - Ex. 4:10-12
  - 2. If God has placed us in it, He has prepared us to handle it.
  - 3. If we quit, He will give the honor and the blessing to one who will stand and do His will - Esther 4:14

#### Conclusion:

- A. What do we do when we get to the end of our rope? - Job 17:1, 6-7, 9