

“I Quit!”

Numbers 11:1-25

# Problems Moses Pondered

- Moses had a people problem.
  - Num. 11:1-3 - “Now when the people complained, it displeased the LORD; for the LORD heard it, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the LORD burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp. 2 Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the LORD, the fire was quenched. 3 So he called the name of the place Taberah, because the fire of the LORD had burned among them.”

# Problems Moses Pondered

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

“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!” *(Author Unknown)*

# Problems Moses Pondered

- Biblical solutions to people problems:
  - Love them like Jesus loves them - Matt. 22:39
  - Forgive them of everything every time they repent - Eph. 4:32
  - 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

# Problems Moses Pondered

- Moses had a provision problem.
  - Num. 11:4-9 - “Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: Who will give us meat to eat? 5 We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6 but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes! 7 Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its color like the color of bdellium. 8 The people went about and gathered it, ground it on millstones or beat it in the mortar, cooked it in pans, and made cakes of it; and its taste was like the taste of pastry prepared with oil. 9 And when the dew fell on the camp in the night, the manna fell on it.”

# Problems Moses Pondered

- 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.

# Problems Moses Pondered

- If we are endeavoring to faithfully serve the Lord, then our provisional issues are His problems to solve, not ours.
  - He is Jehovah-jireh - “The LORD will Provide.”
  - Gen. 22:14 - “And Abraham called the name of the place, Jehovah-Jireh; as it is said to this day, In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided.”

# Problems Moses Pondered

- Matt. 6:25-33
- Phil. 4:6-7, 19 - “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus... 19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

# Problems Moses Pondered

- Moses had a personal problem.
  - Num. 11:10 - “Then Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, everyone at the door of his tent; and the anger of the LORD was greatly aroused; Moses also was displeased.”
  - “Displeased” (ra’a’ayin) - “An eye that sees the world broken in pieces.” (*David Levithan, Hebrew Dictionary*)
- It happens to the best of us at times.
  - Elijah - 1Kings 19
  - Jonah - Jonah 4

# Prayers Moses Prayed

- Moses' prayer revealed the condition of his heart.
  - Num. 11:11-15 - “So Moses said to the LORD, ‘Why have You afflicted Your servant? And why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You have laid the burden of all these people on me? 12 Did I conceive all these people? Did I beget them, that You should say to me, “Carry them in your bosom, as a guardian carries a nursing child,” to the land which You swore to their fathers? 13 Where am I to get meat to give to all these people? For they weep all over me, saying, “Give us meat, that we may eat.” 14 I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me. 15 If You treat me like this, please kill me here and now-if I have found favor in Your sight-and do not let me see my wretchedness!’”

# Prayers Moses Prayed

- David's imprecatory prayer - Psalm 35
- Sometimes we don't know what to pray for.
  - Rom. 8:26-27 - "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."
- While it is sinful to rail against God, many Bible persons cried out to God in the anguish of their souls; it was the beginning point of their recovery.

# Prayers Moses Prayed

- Moses prayed from his confusion.
  - Num. 11:11-12
- Moses felt he had lost control of the situation and couldn't understand why.
  - He forgot that the “why” details are God's responsibility, not his.
- People often pray “Why me!?”
  - There is no good answer to our “why” questions.

# Prayers Moses Prayed

- We need to learn to ask two different questions:
- “Why not me?”
  - John 16:33 - “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”
  - Job 14:1 - “Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.”

# Prayers Moses Prayed

- Why should we expect to live lives free from trouble?
- Learn to give thanks in the midst of trouble.
  - 1Thes. 5:18 - “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

# Prayers Moses Prayed

- Second question: “What will I learn?”
  - Rom. 8:28 - “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”
  - “Affliction is the furnace in which God refines His gold.” *(Thomas Watson)*
- “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?”

# Prayers Moses Prayed

- Moses prayed his confession.
  - Num. 11:12-14
  - He saw, felt, and confessed his weaknesses. He knew that he was insufficient to the task at hand.
- “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 us. We are insufficient to the task without Him.”

*(Thomas Watson)*

# Prayers Moses Prayed

- 2Cor. 12:7-10 - “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

# Prayers Moses Prayed

- Moses prayed capitulation.
  - Num. 11:15
  - Moses gave God an ultimatum: “Get me out of this mess or kill me.”
  - 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 - “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

# The Price Moses Paid

- 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.

# The Price Moses Paid

- Moses paid a price in authority.
  - Num. 11:16-17
  - Moses now must share leadership with 70 other men.
  - 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.

# The Price Moses Paid

- Moses paid a price in association.
  - Num. 11:25
  - Moses failed to recognize that he already possessed all he needed to get the job done.
  - Ex. 4:10-12 - “Then Moses said to the LORD, ‘O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.’ 11 So the LORD said to him, ‘Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD? 12 Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.’”

# The Price Moses Paid

- If God has placed us in it, He has prepared us to handle it.
- If we quit, He will give the honor and the blessing to one who will stand and do His will.
  - Esther 4:14 - “For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

# “I Quit!”

- What do we do when we get to the end of our rope?
  - Job 17:1, 6-7, 9 - “My spirit is broken, My days are extinguished, The grave is ready for me... 6 He has made me a byword of the people, And I have become one in whose face men spit. 7 My eye has also grown dim because of sorrow, And all my members are like shadows... 9 Yet the righteous will hold to his way, And he who has clean hands will be stronger and stronger.”