

The Land Between (5)

Intro: Scripture Reading: Deut 32:48-52 Deut 34:1-5

What happened? Imagine...All of the victories won, battles fought, hardships endured...in the end Saw...Never Possessed Moses Missed God's Best in His life...What Happened? Moses never learned the lesson of the Land Between. He WALKED it...but NOT successfully!

1 Corinthians 10:1 *"For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did."*

When I started this study I was convinced that I was going to uncover some great truths...things that I could stand and thunder over..."thus saith the Lord" I just knew I was going to find some hidden spiritual traps that I would be able to uncover and point to and say...there it is...avoid THAT....and everyone would say...wow...so brilliant...so smart...so deep!

The more I studied the deeper I went...the more familiar I became with the events of the Land Between...I began to get this sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach...The scary truth began to be so clear...and so obvious. It isn't the BIG things that sidetrack most of us...Oh, it happens...but that's not the thing that shipwrecked the vast majority. And that isn't what ultimately cost Moses God's Best in his life. Know what Got him? Grumbling...!!!!!!! Imagine...MOSES

Song of Solomon 2:15 *"Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom."* Little foxes...sneak in...eat the tender young grapes....and ruin the harvest...no fruit...looks good...no harvest Moses allowed some small character flaws to go unchecked in his life...while it took 38 years....cost him God's best!

Numbers 20: 1-13 Pg 110

5 Mistakes that Moses Made

- **Disobedience:** He DIDN'T do what God told him to do. Vs 8 "Speak to that rock before their eyes" Vs 11 Struck it Obedience is a BIG DEAL with God...we have talked about that....Move/Stay
- **Grumbled:** Vs 10 "Listen you rebels..." Psalm 106:33 "Rash words came from his lips An ongoing character flaw Moses never escaped. Constantly with him (People are like leader)
- **Didn't point people to God:** Vs 8: "Speak to that rock before their eyes..." Demonstrate Power of GOD The people were to have seen how easily God could provide their needs...Driven to HIM
- **Assumed God always worked same way:** 38 yrs Earlier God had told him to strike the rock Now different We fall into that trap. Seven last words of Church "We've never done it that way before!"
- **Didn't Acknowledge God:** Vs 10: "Must WE bring water from this rock?" (Took credit for miracle...) Glorify God Allowed himself to think HE was the one doing the work...Spiritually deadly Vs 12: This is the one God points out "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy..."

You didn't do what I told you to do! Instead of honoring me, being obedient to me, following my direction you chose to take matters into your own hands...and glorify yourself...honor yourself....set yourself apart...instead of me...and because of that...you will not enter the land!

3 Elements That Came Together To Bring About Moses Downfall

- **The People:** Unrelenting Complaining, Disobedience and Failure to Follow Both God and Moses It NEVER Stopped! For 40 years they complained! Water, Food, Heat, Direction, Red Sea, People in Land Before the Ten Commandments made it down from the top of the mountain they were broken! Rebelled, Argued, Complained, Murmured, Whined, Moaned, Talked about Egypt....

Reality: People NEVER change. If you are depending upon them to do the right thing...destined for failure!

- **Circumstances:** Moses was tired, worn out. He had been at this for 38-40 years. He is in the exact same situation here that he was in Ex 17. (Some say same PLACE!) 40 years...Desert, Heat, rebellion, struggle...One More Time Have you ever found yourself saying that...If I have to do THAT one more time I will just SCREAM Punch someone

Reality: The Circumstances will NEVER get any better...If they do...something else will quickly pop up!

- **Moses: His Unaddressed Character Flaw:** Get this...it is a SMALL ONE! Grumbling Not stealing...cheating on his wife...not carousing...neglecting His responsibilities...Just grumbling...complaining Arguing with God at every turn: Irony is that People...Just like Moses....All way back to burning bush!!!!

Reality: WE all have them...no one is exempt. They will eventually cause us to fall if unchecked and unchanged!

So, what do we do?

A Plan for Change....

- 1. Acknowledge you CAN change with God's help. Rom 12:1-2**
- 2. Trust God to give you the strength when temptation comes. 1 Corinthians 10:13**
- 3. Study the Scripture to learn about your Sin and the "antidote" Mt 4:1-11 (Jesus temptation quote scripture)**
- 4. Make a specific plan to change your actions. Psalm 17:3 "I have resolved that my mouth will not sin!"**
- 5. Seek help from God (prayer) and others (accountability)**
- 6. Practice what is right...both in the area of the sin, and in other things (the lie...you need this to be happy!)**
- 7. Avoid temptation Mt 6:13 "Lead us not into temptation"**
- 8. Deal with one day at a time Mt 6:33,34 "do not worry about tomorrow"**
- 9. Be patient with yourself and the change you are making Galatians 6:9 "do not grow weary in well doing for in due season we will reap if we do not lose heart!"**

You say...wow...that is a LOT of work...true...

But...consider the Costs...when you don't deal with the Issues....