

NUM. 11:11-15 -- THE PEOPLE COMPLAIN -- "WHERE AM I TO GET MEAT?"

Num 11:11 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?"

Num 11:12 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?

Num 11:13 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.'

Num 11:14 I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me.

Num 11:15 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!"

The Biblical Setting: Complaining and Murmuring

- Israel is beginning their wilderness journey from Mt. Sinai after a little over 2 years following their exodus from Egypt.
- After three days journey, the people began to complain again, which displeased the Lord! His anger was kindled and a fire burned among them and consumed some of them (*Dt. 9:22 - Taberah and Massah and Kibroth Hattaavah*). They turned to Moses and asked him to pray for them!
- After complaining about bitter water; then no food, God had sent manna, about 9 million pounds per day!
- There was a mixed multitude and they were trouble – their troubling; their complaining was contagious. Notice their selective memories! Remember the melons, the leeks....!! What about the taskmasters' whip marks on your back! How ridiculous!
- **IS YOUR APPETITE EVER FOR THINGS OF THE WORLD?**
- The people complained bitterly about the manna! They all stood at the doors of their tent and cried through their families. The anger of the Lord was greatly aroused and Moses also was displeased.
- **ARE YOU A COMPLAINER? Lust is a mockery of the provision of God.**

Num 11:11 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?"

- **He undervalues the honor God had put upon him**, in making him the illustrious minister of his power and grace, in the deliverance and guidance of that peculiar people, which might have been sufficient to balance the burden.
- **He complains too much of a sensible grievance, and lays too near his heart a little noise and fatigue.** If he could not bear the toil of government, which was but running with the footman, how would he bear the terrors of war, which was contending with horses? He might easily have furnished himself with considerations enough to enable him to slight their clamors, and make nothing of them.

- **He magnifies his own performances**, that all the burden of the people lay upon him; whereas God himself did in effect ease him of all the burden. Moses needed not to be in care to provide quarters for them, or victuals; God did all. And, if any difficult case happened, he needed not to be in any perplexity, while he had the oracle to consult, and in it the divine wisdom to direct him, the divine authority to back him and bear him out, and almighty power itself to dispense rewards and punishments.

Num 11:12 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?

- **He is not so sensible as he ought to be of the obligation he lay under, by virtue of the divine commission and command, to do the utmost he could for his people**, when he suggests that because they were not the children of his body therefore he was not concerned to take a fatherly care of them, though God himself, who might employ him as he pleased, had appointed him to be a father to them.

Num 11:13 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.'

- **He takes too much to himself** when he asks, *Where am I to get meat to give to all these people?* as if he were the housekeeper, and not God. Moses gave them not the bread, Joh 6:32. Nor was it expected that he should give them the flesh, but as an instrument in God's hand; and if he meant, "Where was God going to get the meat for them?", he too much was limiting the power of the Holy One of Israel.

Num 11:14 I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me.

- **He speaks distrustfully of the divine grace when he despairs of being able to bear all this people.** Had the work been much less, he could not have gone through it in his own strength; but had it been much greater, through God strengthening him, he might have done it.

Num 11:15 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!'

- **It was worst of all passionately to wish for death, and desire to be killed out of hand, because just at this time his life was made a little uneasy to him!** Is this Moses? Is this the meekest of all the men on the earth? The best have their infirmities, and fail sometimes in the exercise of that grace for which they are most eminent. But God graciously overlooked Moses's passion at this time, and therefore we must not be severe in our desire to criticize Moses for his behavior, but pray, *Lord, lead us not into temptation.*

SUMMARY:

- **Are you attaching too much self-importance in dealing with the things of the world, that are against God? Do you take too much to yourself?**

- Are you complaining much regarding the afflictions in your life from others' poor behavior?
- Do you think much as Moses stated, *"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?"*
- Do you in effect, take too much to yourself as you being the solution to an unsolvable problem? *Where am I to get meat to give to all these people?*
- Are you saying to the Lord, *"the burden is too heavy for me."*?
- Do you ever say with such rashness and foolishness, *"If You treat me like this, please kill me here and now."*?
- In such circumstances, how quick are you taking the problem to the Lord in prayer, turning it all over to the Lord and having faith in Him to do *"exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think"*?

"At Your Name (Yahweh, Yahweh)"-Phil Wickham

*At Your name The mountains shake and crumble
At Your name The oceans roar and tumble
At Your name Angels will bow
The earth will rejoice/ Your people cry out*

*[Chorus:]
Lord of all the earth/ We shout Your name, shout Your name
Filling up the skies With endless praise, endless praise
Yahweh, Yahweh/ We love to shout Your name, oh
Lord*

*At Your name The morning breaks in Glory
At Your name Creation sings Your story
At Your name Angels will bow
The earth will rejoice/ Your people cry out
[Chorus]*

*There is no one like our God/ We will praise you,
praise you
There is no one like our God We will sing, we will sing
[x3]
[Chorus x2]*

How Great Thou Art! – Londonderry Choir

*1. O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.*

*Chorus: - Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

*2. When through the woods, and forest glades I
wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.
Chorus*

*3. And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.
Chorus*

*4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"
Chorus*

