

NUM. 11:11-15 “THE PEOPLES’ COMPLAINING FOR MEAT”

11/4/2017 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

NUMBERS 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!’”*

“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]

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 of about 8 miles, the people were lusting and murmuring again, which displeased the Lord! **He sent fire on them, destroying some at Taberah.**
- There was a **mixed multitude** and they were trouble – their troubling; their complaining was contagious. **Israel followed their complaining also as they lusted likewise after flesh;** thus *evil communication corrupts good manners, 1Co_15:33*; Notice their selective memories! **Remember the melons, the leeks....!!** What about the taskmasters’ whip marks on your back! How ridiculous!
- The people **complained bitterly about the manna**, 9 million pounds per day, **which they had had daily for about a year!** They all stood at the doors of their tent and cried throughout their families. The anger of the Lord was greatly aroused. Moses also was displeased.
- Moses lacked in the following areas: **He undervalues the honor God had put upon him.** He complains too much of a sensible grievance, and lays too near his heart a little noise and fatigue. He **magnifies his own performances**, that all the burden of the people lay upon him. He is **not so sensible as he ought to be of the obligation he lay under**, by virtue of the divine commission and command. **He takes too much to himself** when he asks, “Where am I to get meat to give them?” **He speaks distrustfully of the divine grace when he despairs of being able to bear all this people.** It was **worst of all passionately to wish for death**, because just at this time his life was made a little uneasy to him.



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 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 as 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.

SUMMARY:

- **Notice Moses' errors – What can we learn from these?**
 - **He undervalues the honor God had put upon him.**
 - **He complains too much** of a sensible grievance, getting upset over a little noise and fatigue. **He magnifies his own performances**, that all the burden of the people lay upon him.
 - **He is not so sensible as he ought to be of the obligation he lay under, by virtue of the divine commission and command.**
 - **He takes too much to himself** when he asks, "Where am I to get meat to give them?"
 - **He speaks distrustfully of the divine grace when he despairs of bearing all this people.**
 - **It was the worst of all to passionately wish for death**, because just at this time his life was made a little uneasy to him.
- **How strong is your appetite for the thing of the world? How often are you a complainer?**
- **Are you attaching too much self-importance in dealing with the things of the world? Do you take too much to yourself, thinking you are responsible for the problems' solution?**
- **In such circumstances, how quick are you to take 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"?**

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. General James Kelly. The Cabinet and all advisors. Appointee - Christopher Wray, F.B.I.

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