

"The Cost of Surrender"

Numbers 11

Introduction: As we return tonight to our study of the life of Moses, we are going to look at some of the pressures which Moses had to deal with. Let us keep in mind that Moses was surrendered over to the Lord. He did not surrender immediately at the burning bush but in Exodus 4:18 Moses surrendered all he had over to the Lord to be used by Him.

Application:

Maybe in the past year you also were not completely surrendered to God. But now as we go into 2021 and as you see evidence that God is setting the stage for Satan's kingdom, you desire to live sold out to the Lord because you want to make a difference for God's Kingdom. If that is your desire, then this message is for you because you shall see what it is that you will face. This message is not to discourage you, but it is to strengthen you for what is before you.

Now when I speak of being surrendered to the Lord please do not think that this only applies to people who are out in the public every day or people who sign up to teach in the church. This applies to you if you are committed to being a prayer warrior in your home, or if you are looking to be dedicated in your everyday life in a way that you have neglected in the past. It applies to all who desire to live their lives to please the Lord.

So, if this is you then you can expect you will meet opposition. When you sign up to be surrendered then you will experience what is known as the "Peril Principle". A "peril" is a place of risk and danger. The Apostle Paul experienced perils throughout his entire ministry.

2 Corinthians 11:24-28

²⁴ *Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.*

²⁵ *Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;*

²⁶ *In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;*

²⁷ *In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.*

²⁸ Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

Now, just because you are in a perilous place does not mean that you are going to die or that you are going to be injured. It simply means that you are in a place where these things could happen. We can be sure that as we surrender to God the persecution will come in some form.

2 Timothy 3:12

¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

When we decided to be committed to living Godly, we can be sure Satan is going to do all he can to discourage us and to stop us. When we decide to walk with God we walk right into the crucible. You may think that because you are living for Him that life will get easier, but you will soon come to find out that things will get worse because walking with God makes you a threat to Satan and his purposes.

We can see this in the lives of many of God's people throughout the pages of Scripture.

- **Joseph**
- **Daniel**
- **David**
- **The Apostles**
- **Jesus**

But let us not be discouraged for our God is there to meet our needs as the attacks come.

Romans 8:31-32

³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Psalm 4:3

³ But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.

Psalm 4:3 contains much encouragement for us when we are committed. We are told He sets us apart for Himself and He hears when we call. These two go together because it is the Godly who face the attacks and it is the Godly who need to call upon the Lord. We can be sure then that He hears and provides.

Now let us get to Moses.

I. A Complaining People

Notice Numbers 10:11, 17

Israel had been at Sinai for 11 months. Now it was time to leave and to start toward the Promised Land. They packed up the Tabernacle and they began their journey. When the Pillar of cloud moved, they moved and when it stopped, they stopped, and they would then set up the Tabernacle again. We would think that after receiving the Law and experiencing all they experienced at Sinai they would be ready and excited to move on toward Canaan. But they were not.

Notice Numbers 11:1-2

The people began to complain, and God sent fire among them and they then turned to Moses. He prayed and the fire was quenched. But this was not the end.

Notice Numbers 11:4-10

Here we see that it is the mixed multitude that begins to stir up trouble. These are the people who joined up with Israel when they left Egypt, but they were not with Israel because they desired to worship Israel's God. They left Egypt for other reasons. The economy was destroyed after the plagues. They no longer wanted to live under the political power of Egypt. Some just wanted to see what was in store for Israel so they jumped on the bandwagon.

These are a picture of the unsaved who get mixed in with God's people. They are of the world. They come into the church not because they desire to know God, but they come for other reasons. When they come in, they bring their baggage with them. The mixed multitude with Israel despised the manna which was a type of the Word of God. This is exactly what happens today within the church. The worldly come in and they will complain about hearing the Word of God. They do not want the Word, but they want entertainment because that is what they were used to in the world. They then begin to stir up those who are not deep in the Word. These are the tares among wheat that have been planted by Satan to hinder the work of the saints and the growth of the church.

Matthew 13:24-30

²⁴ Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

²⁵ But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

²⁶ But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

²⁷ So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

²⁸ He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

²⁹ But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Now let us notice how this affected Moses.

II. Discouragement and Depression

Notice Numbers 11:11-15

As Moses heard all the complaining and the crying it really began to get him down. In verse 15 we see that Moses would rather die than deal with this group of complaining people. The reason was because it placed a huge weight upon him.

This was all meant to discourage and to ultimately destroy Moses. Let us remember that Satan hated Israel because it would be from them Jesus Christ would be born.

Application:

This is something that should be expected as we surrender over to the Lord. Satan hates believers for many reasons but probably the greatest reason is because the Holy Spirit lives within us and He (the Holy Spirit) is restraining the demonic forces and keeping the Anti-Christ from rising to power. He also hates us because when we are committed, we are then used by God for His purposes.

Therefore, there will be people whom Satan will use to attempt to discourage us to get us to abandon our surrender.

The question is, "How do we handle these attacks?"

We turn to the Lord to be strengthened by Him. Let us remember Psalm 4.

Psalm 4:3

³ *But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.*

I want to show you this verse in action. It is seen in David's life when his city was burned, and all women and children taken captive.

1 Samuel 30:1-6

And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire;

² *And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way.*

³ *So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.*

⁴ *Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.*

⁵ *And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.*

⁶ *And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.*

III. Misunderstood

Notice Numbers 12:1

Here is something that is unexpected. We find here Moses' brother Aaron and his sister Miriam confronting Moses about his marriage to an Ethiopian woman. This was apparently Moses' second marriage and it is believed that his first wife had died. But the problem that Miriam and Aaron had was that apparently, they were never sought for counsel. This attack, by the way is led by Miriam. She did not approve of this woman and so she goes to Aaron and they both then confront Moses.

Notice Numbers 12:2

Here we see that they were driven by jealousy. When they came to Moses they said, "We have just as much authority as you. We too know God, and we too have the Truth. You never asked us for our opinion on this woman. How dare you Moses!" Keep in mind Miriam is

spearheading this attack. I can just imagine that Aaron was not too concerned with who Moses married.

Application:

There will be times when we make decisions as we follow the Lord and there will be people who do not understand and therefore, they will not approve. They will critique you because of the choice you make.

Illustration:

I read a story of a man whose wife had died and sometime later he married a woman much younger than himself. One of the ladies in his church got up the nerve and confronted him. She said, "The nerve you have! How could you ever consider marrying someone so much younger than yourself?" I love the response he gave. He said, "Honey, I would much rather smell perfume than I would liniment!"

Just know there will be people who criticize your choices because they do not understand the will of God for you. Let us notice what happened.

Notice Numbers 12:2 again.

The end of the verse contains a phrase that should send chills up our back. "THE LORD HEARD IT."

Notice Numbers 12:4-12

God made it known that Moses was His man and for Miriam to speak against him was completely unacceptable. God then struck her with leprosy.

Notice Numbers 12:13-16

Moses did not take the bait. He did not get bitter because of what his sister had said. Instead, he pleaded with the Lord to heal her of the leprosy.

Conclusion:

Moses understood something that we must understand.

Ephesians 6:12-13

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.