

“A Set Up To Mess Up”

Numbers 20:1-13

Tuesday Bible Lunch

April 30, 2024

Introduction: Last Tuesday I said that we would probably look at Numbers chapter twenty today. It is a classic chapter in the Old Testament. It records the biggest mistake Moses ever made in his life (Numbers 20:11).

- But not the only mistake Moses ever made. He killed an Egyptian (Exodus chapter 2). Moses once asked God to kill him (Numbers chapter 11).
- The one lifetime dream of Moses was to enter the Promise Land.
- God let Moses see the Promise Land, but not enter it (Numbers 27:12-14), but not go into the Promised Land (Deut. 34:1-6).

Aside from Jesus, Moses performed more miracles (manifestations of Divine Power) than any person in the Bible.

- The plagues of Egypt
- Water of the Red Sea dried up.
- Water made sweet at Marah.
- Quails sent.
- Manna supplied.
- Water from the rock at Rephidim.
- Water from the rock at Meribah.
- Moses' face shone.
- Moses' talked face to face with God.
- Miriam's leprosy sent and removed.
- Korah and his rebels swallowed by the earth.
- People healed by the Brazen Serpent.
- Guided the Hebrew people 40 years.
- At death (120 years old) good eyesight and strong as ever. (Deut. 34:7).

T.S. But when we come to Numbers chapter 20, we see Moses set up to mess up.

1. Moses was set up to mess up because he had a broken heart (20:1).

- Numbers 20:1
- With the death of his sister, Moses had a broken heart.
- A broken heart is a set up to mess up.

Application: When people have a broken heart, they are not their best and are vulnerable to mess up.

Illustration: Over the years, I have watched people with a broken heart do things they would never have done. This is one reason I tell people who have a broken heart because of the death of a mate to wait at least a year before making big decisions.

2. Mose was set up to mess up because Moses was dealing with a crisis (20:2).

- There was no water for the people or the animals.
- Numbers 20:2.
- A crisis is a set up to mess up.

Application: Most of us will only face a few crises in our lifetime. (Death of a mate, death of a child, loss of a job, financial crisis, health crisis, etc). When you face a crisis, you are vulnerable to mess up.

3. Moses was set up to mess up because the people turned against Moses (20:2-5).

- 20:2-5
- People turning against you is a set up to mess up.

- There is not a leader anywhere that has not had people turn against them.

Illustration: I learned this in my first church. A man turned against me because I adjusted the thermostat in the Sanctuary. In my Tennessee church, a man turned against me because he was not qualified to be a deacon. In my Sulphur Springs church, a man turned against me basically because I did not do what he wanted done. In my Pasadena church, a small group turned against me over the relocation of the church.

Illustration: Basically, half of the county is against President Biden. If Donald Trump is elected in November half of the county will be against him.

Application: Just know that when people turn against you to be on guard because you are vulnerable to mess up.

4. Moses was set up to mess up because Moses had a weary soul (Deut. 1:2).

- Deut. 1:2
- It was an 11-day journey on foot from Horeb to Kadesh Barnea.
- It took Israel nearly 40 years to complete the journey because of their disobedience (Numbers chapters 13 and 14).

Illustration: But Moses faced problems that would weary any soul.

1. All the nations that attacked Moses and the Hebrew people on the way to the Promise Land would weary a soul.
2. The endless complaining of the Hebrew people against Moses and God would weary a soul.
3. Miriam and Aaron tried to usurp his authority.
4. The 10 spies ready to stone Moses.

Application: When you have a weary soul, be on guard. You are set up to mess up.

Conclusion: Satan attacks us when we are the weakest.

- Satan tempted Jesus when He had fasted forty days and forty nights in the wilderness.
- Jesus was vulnerable to sin, but He did not sin.
- Jesus answered Satan's temptations with the Word of God. Three times Jesus said, "It is written..." (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10).

When you feel weakest, find strength in God's Word. Have some "go to verses" memorized so when you need them you will have them.