**Is Moses’ Mistake -- Our Mistake?**

**Reading: Numbers 20:1-12**

**the feeling was mutual**

The People seem to have no faith in making it to the Promised Land with the current leadership.

From Moses’ standpoint, I wonder if he’s not thinking the same thing.

1. “With a group of rebellious people to lead around, I’m not ever going to make it to the Promised Land either.”

2. “I’ve lived my life for these people and this is the thanks I get!”

3. “These people are nothing but a yoke around my neck.”

Hardship did not unify the people; it drove a wedge between them.

**[2 Peter 5:1-6] *The elders which are among you I exhort,...Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being examples to the flock...Likewise you younger, subject yourselves unto the elder. Yes, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resists the proud, and gives grace to the humble.***

**Why is Moses punished?**

What mistake did Moses make to keep him out of the Promised Land?

There are some who say God was just looking for a reason to keep Moses out of the Promised Land.

Striking the rock was just a **small** mistake.

Moses is denied entering the Promised Land for making a ***BIG*** mistake.

**[vs. 12**] ***because you did not believe Me***

The main problem was Moses’ attitude. His anger may have been a contributing cause in his disobedience to God. **[Ephesians 4:26]*****Be angry and sin not, Don’t let the sun go down on your wrath****.*

Jesus recognized that proper attitude is important prior to worship. **[Matthew 5:23-24]** ***Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and remember there that your brother has something against you, Leave your gift before the altar, and go your way: first be reconciled to you brother, and then come and offer your gift.***

**consequences of leadership**

[**Psalm 106:32-33]** ***They angered the Lord at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes; Because they provoked his [Moses] spirit, so that he spoke rashly with his lips.***

Notice the importance placed upon an elder’s leadership. **[Titus 1:7]** For ***a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker....***

**[Titus 2:2-5]** ***The aged men should be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity & in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becoming holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things,; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.***

**what made moses a good leader**

***[Numbers 27:12-17] Now the Lord said to Moses: “Go up into this Mount Abarim, and see the land which I have given to the children of Israel. [13] And when you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother was gathered. [14] For in the Wilderness of Zin, during the strife of the congregation, you rebelled against My command to hallow Me at the waters before their eyes.” (These are the waters of Meribah, at Kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin.) [15] Then Moses spoke to the Lord, saying: [16] “Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, [17] who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord may not be like sheep which have no shepherd.”***

Even in the moment of his greatest disappointment, he still wants what’s best for others.

Take the advice of Romans 12.

1. **[vs. 14]** ***Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.***

2. **[vs. 17]** ***Recompense to no man evil for evil, Provide things honest in the sight of all men.***

3. **[vs. 19]** ***Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, “Vengeance is mine. I will repay says the Lord.”***

4. **[vs. 21]** ***Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.***