

NUMBERS 14 - WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE REBEL...

CONTEXT:

In Numbers 14, the people respond to the report from the 12 spies who had been sent out to check the Promised Land. 10 out of 12 bring back a less than encouraging report, which leads to the Israelites to "rebel" against God. They refused to enter the Promised Land! They were literally right at the "doorstep" of God's promised land filled with "milk and honey", but now they refuse to go in. As a result, God declares his punishment upon those who refuse to enter. His initial punishment: total wipeout for all those who are disobedient! Even after relenting, the entire generation was punished with 40 years in the desert.

Why is God so harsh this time? Why did they end up wandering the desert for 40 years?

OUTLINE:

God's people rebelled:

1. They were longing for the past. (v. 1-4)
2. They rejected God's promise; they feared man. (v. 5-10)

God's response: disowning His own people (11-12). Key context: Gen 12:1-7

Moses' response: Intercession

1. So others would remember God's greatness (v. 13-16)
2. So God's people would experience God's steadfast love (v. 17-19)

God's response: mercy....at a cost

1. 40 years in the desert (v. 20-36)
2. Death for those who caused their fall (v. 39-45)

God's people rebelled...again:

3. The people try to enter, without God's blessing (v. 39-43)
4. The people are defeated (v. 44-45)

APPLICATION:

1. Don't _____ God.
2. Forgiveness does not mean _____.
3. Do _____ for others. (See 1 Tim 2:1-2)

Questions for Reflection:

- 1) Whose voice do I listen to more: God, or those around me? Which influences me more: the Bible, or social media?
- 2) Are there times I tend to take advantage of God's
- 3) Who has God called me to intercede for? How can I "stand in the gap" and pray for them?