

# Numbers 20:12

## The cost of unbelief

*But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."*

Moses was in the spotlight. Every trouble and distress was pinned on him as though he was the cause of the miserable circumstances the people of Israel were in, when in fact, they would have already been in the promised land if they had believed God when they were on the banks of the Jordan. They had accused Moses of not taking them to the land of milk and honey and instead leading them to a dry desert with no water. However, the distress they were in was of their own making. You can only imagine the animosity and threats he faced considering the size that Israel had grown to by this point. Moses, in his frustration, hits the rock instead of speaking to it and tells the people of the rebellion that is in their hearts. However, instead of God rebuking the people for their attitude towards Moses, He has to rebuke Moses.

So what does this say to us? I think that more often we find ourselves in the position of the people and not that of Moses. Are we also in a desert of our own making? Have we blamed God for promising something and when the test has come that causes us to let go of His word in despair and turn away, have we turned away? I think we spend a lot more time in a mire of our own making than we often understand. The people blamed Moses for their's, who do we blame? The sin has always been unbelief. It seems that God continually allows our hearts to be tested. He isn't fooled by outward affection when things are going well. If He gives prosperity and people love Him, how does this show their hearts? But if He gives us His word about something we have been praying about and He allows the circumstances to be impossible through natural means, this tests our hearts towards Him.

God's greatest blessings come as a result of passing this test, because now He knows if we love Him more than we love what He can do for us. God is looking for friends. Bestowing blessings on people is easy for Him, but training them up to be His children, men and women after His own heart, this is the real blessing that He desires to give us. This blessing only comes through His constant attention to every detail of our lives, and not letting us get away with anything that will lead to our own destruction.

We need to stop treading on the same old ground trying to get out of our own wilderness and realize that it has been we ourselves that have been the cause of our misery. We doubted God and turned back to the wilderness of this passing world. So let us turn our gaze back to God and start believing in His goodness towards us so that when He leads us forward into the impossible we will go forth with great courage and a joyful heart!

God bless!

July 7,10      Written by a fellow servant of Jesus    -Seth