

A Lost Opportunity

Numbers 14: 10 – 45

27 February 2022 A.M.

Series: Heading to the Promised Land

Moses Intercedes for Israel. Vv. 10 – 19.

- How long?
 - God tests Moses again, and he passes the test again.
- Moses pleads with God to forgive.
 - God's reputation among the nations.
 - Moses pleads for God's mercy as what makes Him Great.
 - God's presence in fire and cloud obvious.
 - Although disobedient they were still God's chosen people.
 - Moses pleads for God to pardon or forgive according to His great loyal love as He had already done many times.

God's Forgiveness, With Consequences. Vv. 20 – 38.

- In His glory God forgave, but:
 - This generation of Israel would not enter the Promised land, having tested Him ten times.
 - Caleb and Joshua exempted having a different spirit.
 - God redirects to return to the sands.
 - For the next forty years their corpses will litter the desert.
 - Their children, the next generation will inherit the Promised Land but suffer as wanderers for 40 years.
 - The ten unfaithful spies executed by God.
- God forgives our sin, but often our sin still brings consequences.

Israel's Change of Heart? Vv. 39 – 45.

- Suddenly Israel decides to take the Promised Land.
 - Moses warns them not to, it was too late.
 - God was not with them, and without God their fears of defeat would certainly be realized.
 - Still refusing to listen to God they proceed to war, but the Ark and Moses remained in the camp.
 - They were soundly defeated.
- Obtaining the Promised Land requires faithful obedience, and after rejecting His offer over time, He may determine it too late leaving us with the consequences of our choices.

Conclusion

- Only by God's mercy in pardoning our sins we are not destroyed in His judgment, however consequences for our sin still follow us.
- Not faithfully following God's direction, often over time, may result in the loss of blessing and benefits He intended for us.
- Even though we receive God's forgiveness and pardon when we confess our sin, we can expect to bear the consequences of our actions in this life.