

*Faith Cometh
By Hearing*

*Where You Are Down There Is
An Answer*

*Sermon Preached By
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Let us go to the Old Testament to the book of Numbers, Chapter 10, verse 11-13. **“And it came to pass on the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from off the tabernacle of the testimony. And the children of Israel took their journeys out of the wilderness of Sinai: and the cloud rested in the wilderness of Paran. And they first took their journey according to the commandment of the Lord by the hand of Moses.”** The children of Israel came to a place in Sinai where they stopped and camped for about a year. Throughout that year, the Lord spoke to Moses nearly 60 times. There was a lot of communication going on between God and Moses to provide the children of Israel a vision and a plan to move forward to the land of promise. During this period, Moses also suffered some setbacks and hardships with that unruly bunch of Israelites. However, what an amazing experience Moses must have had to be that close to the glory of the Lord and instructed by Him. God during this time was laying out a plan to give hope, and vision to his chosen people. However, the time came when they received enough instruction and had to move forward to the promise land. Sure, there will be battles ahead, but they had their God Elohim on their side to lead and guide them to their destination and to protect them from all their enemies. Moses was their shepherd under God to lead them into the land of milk and honey. However, this was not an easy group of people to manage. They were an unruly, extremely hardheaded, and rebellious and definitely did not demonstrate any faith in their God and His promises. Nevertheless, it was time for them to move on. Go to verse Number chapter 10 verse 33. **“And they departed from the mount of the Lord three days’ journey: and the ark of the covenant of the Lord went before them in the three days’ journey, to search out a resting place for them. And the cloud of the Lord was upon them by day, when they went out of the camp.”** They had God behind them and they had Moses leading them. For this rebellious lot, that was not good enough. **“And the cloud of the Lord was upon them by day, when they went out of the camp. And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before**

thee.” Just look at the confidence and excitement that Moses had at this time. **“Rise up Lord, and let thine enemies”** and there would be plenty of them, **“be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee.”** Moses was excited about the future after instructed by God, and he was full of faith, full of hope, full of cant-wait-to-fulfill-this-destiny-for-my-God and this nation. Let thine enemies be scattered because they will not stand up against you Lord because you are going before us. I want you to imagine with me what a beautiful scene this was. Moses filled with excitement, joy, and enthusiasm. However, this was a rebellious bunch and the joy would soon end. Let us move forward to verse 36. **“And when it rested, he said, Return, O Lord, unto the many thousands of Israel.”** Moses was man full of hope, vision, and direction. God had given him a plan and a promise. He had a promise that no matter what, the Lord will go before them. That is God’s promise even today for us. However, they are only 3 days out in their journey. Just 3 days journey out of the wilderness of Sinai. It did not take long for that faithless bunch of Israelites that could never keep their sight on God and His promises to bring everything to a stand still. It only took 3 days for them to forget God’s promises. Not only did they not trust their Lord, but also they could not even follow their leader that just parted the Red sea. It is not easy to stay in faith, but it is easy to lose faith. It is very easy to let Satan in with his methods. When you put your eyes and focus on your circumstances and off Jesus, it becomes easier to forget God and His promises, His power, and His wonderful word.

Let us go to chapter 11. “And when the people complained, it displeased the Lord: and the Lord heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the Lord burnt among them and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp. And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the Lord, the fire was quenched.” Moses came through again for his people. The Lord listened to Moses, and then what happened? He quenched the fire. There comes a time when you can push God too far. We as individuals on occasion

are going to complain, but if we are constantly complaining, God is going to say enough is enough. I do it, and you do it also, you are lying to yourself and to your Lord if you say you do not. Just face it, we all sin and complain more than we like to admit. How did God deal with it? He sent fire on them. Then Moses once again had to intervene on their behalf to quench those fires. Moses does some complaining also in verse 11! Moses complains to the Lord about the children of Israel, not about the Lord as the children of Israel did. There is a big difference. One is evil the other is desperate. "And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire of the Lord burnt among them." Verse four starts explaining who the group that complained was. "And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?" These people were troublemakers in the camp. Moreover, it did not take much for them to stir up the rest of the camp and to displease the Lord, and eventually causing their death. And the mixt multitude. These people are rebels or foreigners. These folks were not Israelites but they were traveling with them. These people have come out of Egypt with Israel. Since they were not Hebrews, they had no personal attachment to God. This mixt multitude stirred the camp with their complaining, their displeasing, and their lusting. In addition, this is only 3 days after they left to continue their journey to the promise land. Why were they complaining? The explanation is in verse 5. "We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic: But now our soul is dried away:" Remember this all happens to them just 3 days into their journey towards the promise land. They were not starving; they were fed Manna. In addition, I expect it was very nutritious. These Israelites complained often, and this is why none of them ended up making it to the Promised Land. There constant attitude was Woe is me. They had nothing to complain about, they had God and His chosen leader guiding the way and providing for them. However, the wear and tear of this evil bunch of Israelites was taking a toll on Moses. They were bitter! They were always complaining, regardless what God did for them. If you are constantly listening to complainers, they are going to

drag and beat you down. “But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes. And the manna was as coriander seed, and the color thereof as the color of bdellium. And the people went about, and gathered it, and ground it in mills, or beat it in a mortar, and baked it in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil.” The manna does not sound that bad to me. “And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it.” What a gift from God. What did they have to complain about to anyone? All they could remember were the tasty foods they had eaten in Egypt instead of the manna God miraculously provided. Go to Exodus the first chapter verse 11. “Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.” Afflict them. Not to provide them comfort. Not to feed them 3 meals a day. They were only there to keep them working hard and to afflict them. Let us go to Exodus chapter 1 verse 13. “And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigor.” They were under hard labor. As slaves, they were in bondage; but they quickly forgot that. Let us never forget that Jesus rescued us from the pit of hell. Thank God for His grace. While in bondage, the Egyptians made their lives bitter! Let us go back to verse 11. They were afflicting them. Back to verse 14. Hard work and labor all their service was with rigor. How quickly they forgot the wonderful way of escape God provided them. If I was Moses, I would be completely depressed to. I would be asking the Lord to take me away. They were a rebellious group and they just would not keep their focus on God and remember the things that the Lord had done for them. If it was not bad enough, having their taskmasters working them as hard as they can be worked, then go to verse 22. “And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.” Now the Pharaoh is demanding that all the young baby boys to be murder. If the slavery and hard rigorous work was not enough to cause them to give up on any hope of deliverance now they had to watch, their sons drown in the river. How could you forget that? Why would you entertain any thoughts of going back? How could they forget all the miracles and events

that led up to their deliverance? I cannot even imagine what satisfaction Satan was probably experiencing watching the chosen people complaining about their God and their God chosen leader. They could not remember the promises of God. They could not remember what a powerful wonderful God He was, and what He had done for them. Let us go back to the book of Numbers chapter 11 verse 9. "And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it. Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the Lord was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased." Just imagine Moses walking around the camp. He knew that God would soon say enough is enough, and wipe out that nation. Moses goes up and down the aisles of the camp, hearing the people weep, mothers, fathers, and children. They drove Moses to a miserable frame of mind and condition. Moreover, you are telling me you would not be depressed. I know I would say, why me Lord. Why did you put me in this position? I would have done what Moses did asking why me? These are you're people. That is exactly what I would have said. I dislike those self-righteous religious groups who say if you are a Christian, everything will be fine. If you become a Christian, all hell will be release on you. In addition, you will face similar kinds of situations in your life that will bring you to the breaking point. Therefore, I want you to imagine what it must have felt like for Moses. What a scene this must have been with all the weeping. Now the anger of the Lord kindled greatly. Not just a little angry, he was very angry. That is putting it gently. Moses became deeply depressed. Moses says to the Lord in verse 11 and 12, "Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favor in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me? Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers? Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat." This is where Moses fell deeper and deeper into his own pity party. "I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me." How many of you have said the same

thing in times of distress? I cannot bear it alone. I know I have. God never asked Moses to bear it alone. He spent over a year in the desert training and preparing Moses before they continued in their journey. When beaten down by your circumstances constantly, it does not take long to forget all your training that God has given to you. It does not take long to slip out of faith when your eyes are not focusing on His word. Moses said, I cannot do this alone; it is too heavy for me. If you go back a few chapters, you would see that he was not bearing everything by himself. He had Joshua, his father in law, elders, and officers to help him. What Moses could not bear was all the spiritual consequences. It's was just too much for him. Moses knew that their lusting for meat, just 3 days in, was a deep spiritual disease that they had demonstrated. Moses reacted by saying to the Lord "kill me, I pray thee." He is now down in the deepest, darkest hole. The situation was totally out of control. This hero of faith hit bottom because of a rebellious, faithless, and self-center people. They showed no respect for God or His appointed leader. Obedience to the faith is much more important in God's word than sacrifice. Through God's word, obedience has always been the problem. If you do not follow this ministry then follow someone who can lead God's sheep in a direction that He wants them to go. Obedience has always been the problem. We live in a world where nobody is going to tell us what to do. In Ephesians chapter 4 verse 11 and 12 Paul says, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints." A more accurate translation is completion of the saints. God's chosen leaders are to complete the saints not the saints completing them. There is order and leadership that needs to be followed in God's word. Obedience to the faith is a lost scriptural truth in today's world, and as I said before, I hope you can find someone you can trust and follow them for your completion. You are nothing more than mixt multitude, causing nothing but problems if you think you can follow God without any appointed leadership. Let us go back to Numbers 11:15 "And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favor in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness." The Lord had enough and He says to Moses in verse 16,

“And the Lord said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.” God immediately had a solution to Moses plea. “And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, and that thou bear it not thyself alone.” God supplied Moses needs in his time of trouble. Just like, He will for us in our time of need. God was not through with Moses yet, and He is not through with you. We have so much more than Moses had. God will help us with our burdens, but it takes trust and faith in His word. It does not come easy. You need endurance, and the willingness to be an example, to prove to the world that what God said through Jesus Christ is true. God supplied Moses with the answer that He felt Moses needed. God came down to Moses’ level, and rescued him. However, God was not done yet and in verse 18, he commands “And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the Lord, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the Lord will give you flesh, and ye shall eat. Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days; But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the Lord which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?” They were going to eat so much flesh that they would become extremely ill and some will even die. God in other words says, you are going to complain about not having any meat. You faithless, evil, miserable bunch rather have meat to fill your belly and desire not the bread of life that I have given you! “And Moses said, the people, among whom I am, are six hundred thousand footmen; and thou hast said, I will give them flesh, that they may eat a whole month.” Moses at this point still had some doubts. “Shall the flocks and the herds be slain for them, to suffice them? or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to suffice them? And the Lord said unto Moses, Is the Lord’s hand waxed short? Thou shalt see now whether my word

shall come to pass unto thee or not.” Moses here was questioning God how He was going to pull off this miracle without slaying all that they had. God at this point must have been saying to Himself, Moses they doubted my word but don’t you do it. Snap out of it Moses! Wake up! Do not fall in the same pit. You have been faithful, they have not, and because of their faithlessness, they are dragging you down. Do not forget how strong my arm is. Do not forget I can do wonders and miracles. “And Moses went out, and told the people the words of the Lord, and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and set them round about the tabernacle. And the Lord came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.” I do not believe it was ever in God’s plan to have these 70 elders. These 70 elders had no impact in the future of Israel. These 70 men were just to encourage Moses and get him back on track with God. The last four words in that last verse could easily translate and did not repeat. This was a one-time event just to get Moses through this difficult time. “And Moses gat him into the camp, he and the elders of Israel. And there went forth a wind from the Lord, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp.” “As it were 2 cubits high around the face of the earth.” Not only are there so many quails, but it was stacking up all around them. Once again, only God can pull off something like that. I cannot even imagine how much quail that was. The people stayed up all that day, the next day too, gathering the quails. “The wrath of the Lord was kindled against the people and the Lord smote the people with a very great plague.” That’s what happens when you complain about the Lord, you get smitten and eventually eternal damnation. God met Moses’ need, and he brought judgment to the people. You had better be on the lookout. You’re plague is coming if you complain about God too often. If you complain to God, He will help you as He helped Moses, but He will plague you as He plagued Israel if you complain about Him. You can never complain about the Lord. However, you can bring your concerns to Him. How can anyone eat that much quail? I get sick of leftovers the next day. God called that place where he

spread that plague on them Kibrot-hattaavah: because there they buried the people that lusted. They probably could have been spared from disaster. However, they were glutinous evil people, and never trusted God to be their supply for their needs. Is he you're supply? Even though it was rough for Moses, he got back on the same page with God. God gave him a solution and it did get Moses through those tough times. Like Moses, we tend to forget God's plan for us because of the trials and tribulations. God is always thinking about what is best for us. You have to understand that you have to trust in his word. You just have to hang in there in faith in His word and let him control your destiny. The hardest thing about the walk of faith is trusting in his timing. We are a generation of impatience. We never want it tomorrow we want it today. Just hang in there in faith. You're weakness will become a strength if you endure in faith. He is imputing you with righteousness through faith that will make you stronger and closer to Him. God will never leave you or forsake you. With that promise, keep hanging in there in faith, and never let go. Trust in Jesus, He will never leave us or forsake us. That is a promise from Him.

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