

Why Moses Count Not Enter the Promised Land – March 9, 2022

Motto: “4 U, God, in 2022.” This week’s message makes it real. **Mindful Moses & Aaron** – never got to enter the Promised Land.

They were chosen. Leaders. Freed Israel. Miracles happened.

Yet: did not enter the Promised Land.

Why? A warning to guide our actions, thoughts, & attitudes.

Numbers 20 – In Desert of Zin. Miriam has died; grumbling - No Water.

9 So Moses took the staff from the Lord’s presence, just as he commanded him. **10** He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, “Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?” **11** Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.”

That moment cost Moses and Aaron the promised land. Why?

3 Theories:

1) b/c Moses **struck the rock** instead of speaking to it. Old **habits...**

a. Understandable – he struck a rock previously...

i. Ex. 17 – God had him strike the rock at Horeb.

ii. Ex. 7 – Staff struck the Nile, became blood.

b. Different here - Moses didn’t need to use **force**.

i. We don’t need to **force** our will/way. **Let God be God.**

c. **Symbolic. 1 Cor. 10:3-4** – Israelites “ate the same spiritual food & drank the same spiritual drink. For they were drinking from the spiritual rock accompanying them, and the rock was Christ.”

i. Jesus was **crucified once**. Once was enough.

d. Just obey. **Trust** - God will be true to His promise. He’s faithful.

● **Be mindful – do what God asks of us.** Let God be God.

Don’t **add to/take away** God’s word

Duet. 4:2 – “Do not add to or subtract from these commands I am giving you. Just obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you.”

Duet. 12:32 – “See that you do all I command you; do not add to it or take away from it.

Rev. 22:18-19 – a third warning about adding to/subtracting from.

2) b/c Moses **took credit** for the miracle –

- a. Moses' public words suggest that he made water, not God.
- b. Tempting for us to think we've made things happen.... Success.
- c. Give God the credit for His grace, gifts, His work.
 - **Be mindful - God works thru us** ... it's not us.

3) b/c of his **attitude, angry?** Pride? Called the people: "**rebels**"

- a. Be careful – we call out what's in us. Moses rebelled.
 - i. Rebel: to resist authority, oppose control. Your way.
 - ii. If we want to control things... it's a **rebel** attitude... & **pride**
- b. **Anger** will get you in trouble.
 - i. **Eph. 4:26-27** - "Be angry, yet do not sin." Do not let the sun set upon your anger, and do not give the devil a foothold."
 - ii. Foothold b/c it gives Enemy opportunities...
 - **Be mindful - We're servants**, and need a servant attitude. Our greatness is God, not us. Stop pride.

Don't know for sure about the theories. Combo of the 3?

BUT - we can learn from what God said about that moment:

Num. 20:12 – "But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."

CEV – "Because you refused to believe in my power, these people did not respect me."

2 Q to ask ourselves & guide our lives:

1. Am I **BELIEVING** in God?

- a. Do my actions demonstrate true faith in God?
- b. Believe enough to give up my will... how things should be done?
- c. Am I trusting in God's timing? Not taking control for Him ... a steadfast and calm confidence in God?
 - What am I missing out on b/c I haven't believed???

2. Am I HONORING God before others?
 - a. Am I demonstrating proper respect and reverence for Him?
 - b. Do I give God the credit for all I do? All that happens?
 - c. Do I stand in awe of who God is?
 - What am I missing out on b/c I haven't honored God??

Closing thoughts:

- 1 – Some have wrestled with this... does punishment fit the crime?
He was good leader... did so much.
But - We don't see Moses complain or argue w/God.
He continues to faithfully lead the people and honor God. He knew.
Be honest. Don't cover it up, justify it, excuse it. Let God be God
- 2 – God is still **faithful**. Moses struck the rock, but water still flowed.
Our mistakes don't alter God. His promises are still true.
His Power still works. His Glory still shines.
- 3 -- God is still **compassionate**. He invites Moses up to Mount Nebo, shows him the Promised Land before his death. **Deut. 34:4–5** -
“Then the Lord said to him, ‘This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, “I will give it to your descendants.” I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.’
Moses' failure at the rock didn't break his relationship with God.
When Adam & Eve sinned, God became their tailor.
God's love doesn't stop. He is still tender with us.

For You, God, in 2022: Show respect for God. Honor Him. Believe in Him.

Song of the week: **“Let My Words Be Few”** – by Phillips, Craig & Dean.
Stay positive. Test negative. Get vaccinated.