

Setting Your Heart

on the

Kingdom



NUMBERS

Leadership—A Lonely and Narrow Path

(The Principle of Leadership in God's Kingdom)

Numbers 20:1-13

Wouldn't it be great to be like Moses? How wonderful it must have been to talk with God face to face as a man speaks to a friend! And the miracles...how exciting it would be to see the power of God channeled through your very words! What an honor it would be to deliver God's people from bondage and to lead them through victorious battles into freedom. Well, dear reader, it wasn't quite as glamorous as you may think. Yes, there were marvelous wonders and times of great celebration, but the path that Moses walked was indeed *very lonely and very narrow*.

There is no greater honor than being chosen by God as a leader in His Kingdom. But along with this honor comes great responsibility...to clearly hear His voice, obediently follow His commands, and correctly represent His character. It's an uphill battle, especially in light of our fallen nature that works against God's purposes. And, when carrying out His difficult and unpopular directions, people can become resentful and critical. Moses was accused, condemned and confronted...even to the point that he despaired for life. But, the greatest downfall in his leadership came when he angrily "struck" the rock out of frustration, rather than "speaking" to it as God had instructed. What many would view as a slight deviation from His command, God saw as unbelief and dishonor. Because of this, Moses was disqualified from entering the Promised Land!

Several lessons can be learned from this account. ***First: It's lonely at the top!*** There's no other human you can turn to for solace when difficult times come and the people don't understand the ways of God. ***Secondly: It's a narrow road that leaders travel!*** The higher you go with God, the less room there is for error. To whom much is given, much is required. ***And Finally: God knows how to correct His leaders!*** Leave the punishment of an erring pastor or elder to God. He can do it much more effectively than you can. Now, think again. Are you really called to be like Moses? If so, then walk humbly before God and dare not deviate from His will. It may cost you your ministry!

Next Week: The Kingdom of God in Deuteronomy...The Testing of Your Faith

