

## Communion Meditation – In the Wilderness

Numbers 11.1-3

Camping Builds Character

November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### A Year has Passed

- This is the 9<sup>th</sup> message in the Wilderness series (2m / 20d / 2y – year later)
- 6 instances of disobedience / rebellion / discontent occurred first 3 months
  - Fear / Thirst / Hunger / Manna (store/gather) / Thirst / Idolatry
- “**What happened here?**” ~ Cause of complaint not clear in **Num 10**
  - Beautiful phrases c/ark shared from **vss 35 & 36**

### Three Days of Travel

- **Read Num 10.11-13** ~ “cloud was taken up from above the Tabernacle”
  - **v13** ~ “So they started out for the first time”
  - They’d been settled for over 9 months here at Mt. Sinai
  - Israelites began largest camping trip ever / millions of people / 39 years
  - “**How long did they travel?**” ~ **v33** ~ “journey of three days”

### Camping Trip

- Perhaps you love camping ~ Perhaps you love the deprivations involved
  - That might describe you ... But then there are the rest of us ...
- Camping trips try our patience and test our character
  - **III**: Michael Elliott’s long legs – camping trip with boys
  - **III**: Camping across US on honeymoon in 1986
- Israelites led a sedentary existence in Goshen (not campers)
  - This was the first time to decamp and set up the camp anew
  - Many complained ~ the first time can be very difficult

### God Set a Precedent

- But God set a precedent with this first experience
- He wasn’t about to listen to their complaints for the next 39 years
- God believes the death penalty is a deterrent / changes behavior

Let us appreciate the comforts of this life ..

But let us not lament their absence when we must go without ..

We have much to be thankful for .. The greatest is that God loves us .. table proof