

## Communion Meditation – In the Wilderness

Numbers 14.36-38

Contrasting Leaders

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### Story of Spies

- Read Num 13.1-2 ~ God commands spies be sent out
- Read Num 13.27-28a ~ “Thus they .. fortified and very large”
- Read Num 13.30-31 ~ Caleb & Joshua advise to go / 10 others not to go
  - Judah and Ephraim represented by Caleb and Joshua
- > Num 14.1-4 ~ People want to appoint leader and return to Egypt
- Read Num 14.5-10 ~ People resist Moses, Aaron, Joshua and Caleb
- > Num 14.11-19 ~ Moses intercedes for the rebels
- Read Num 14.20-23 ~ God pardons / Pronounces consequence of unbelief
- Read Num 14.29-32 ~ All over 20 to die in wilderness
- Read Num 14.36-38 ~ Ten spies lacking faith die in plague

### Contrasts in Leadership

- Courage of Joshua and Caleb (Num 13.30)
- Humility of Moses, Aaron, Caleb and Joshua (Num 14.5-6)
- Faith of same group of men (Num 14.9b)
- Selflessness & Wisdom of Moses exhibited (Num 14.11-19)
  - By contrast the other 10 lacked courage and faith
  - They twisted the truth and enflamed discontent

### Good and Bad Leaders

- All twelve spies were leaders (Num 13.2-3)
  - But 10 of them were not very good leaders
- **Moses** was a great leader ~ He was from the tribe of Levi
- **Caleb** and **Joshua** were good leaders ~ They were from Judah and Ephraim
- The tribes of Judah and Ephraim became powerful in their new homeland
- And the Levitical priesthood was powerful throughout their history

Leaders must not be foolhardy / But they must be courageous

Sadly, many people are in leadership that ought not be

Many in leadership do not lead, they just follow from the front