

Communion Meditation – In the Wilderness

Numbers 14.39-45

Presumptuous Faith

January 18th, 2015

Moses Conveys Bad News

- Last time we read of spies and bad report – ending with their deaths (**v36-38**)
- Moses conveys a message to people / **Read v39** / “**What is the msg?**”
- Except for Joshua & Caleb (and children) they will die in the wilderness
 - **Read 30-31** ~ “**Except for Caleb .. shall fall in this wilderness**”
 - **v39** ~ “**.. and the people mourned greatly**”

Too Late, the People Obey

- **Read v40** ~ The people determine to correct their failure of the day before
- **vss 41-43** ~ Moses clearly opposes them in their folly
 1. You are disobeying God
 2. You will not succeed
 3. The Lord is not with you
 4. Your enemies will defeat you

The People are Defeated

- **v44** ~ They “**presumed to go up**” to the mountaintop
- Though neither the ark nor Moses accompanied them
- The Amalekites and Canaanites drive them back
- God’s punishment begins ~ **v32** / “**your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness**”

Misplaced Faith

- Just the day before they’d not had faith in God to lead them to victory
- But now, the true object of their faith is revealed . . . “**In what is their faith?**”
 - They reject the wisdom of Moses, who is much closer to God than them
 - Instead they place their faith in themselves
 - They base decisions based on their own warped code of ethics

What gives people such faith in themselves . . . such confidence?

How can people reject the clear Word of God in favor of their own opinions?

Such hubris is rooted in self-love . . . self-worship . . . self-righteousness

All of which we shun . . . when we come to the Lord’s Table