

Monday 23rd November

Numbers 16: 1-15

Key Verses 16: 1-3

Here we go again! Despite witnessing the fate of the 10 spies, here we see Korah, Dathan and Abiram allowing their human natures to overrule their hearts.

Numbers 16 is a horrific story of these 3 men, whose desires were above their calling and led to their ultimate fate (v31).

There is so much for us to learn from this story.

Korah, the ring leader of this mini rebellion, was a Levite and Dathan and Abiram were Reubenites. The Levites were already a tribe honoured above others by God for special duties and service to Aaron, the high priest. Korah wasn't happy with his God-given circumstances, he wanted more. He wanted the priesthood for himself (v10).

Verse 3 shows the essence of Korah's grumbling. First he says that every one of them has been chosen by God and second, that Moses and Aaron are no better than anyone else!

Both of these statements are true. Moses would be the first to say he was no better than anyone else! (The most humble man on earth Nu12:3) Korah is no doubt referring to God's words recorded in Ex 19:6, 'a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' But Moses saw beyond what Korah was saying to the selfish motives he had. Probably it was with sadness and frustration that Moses falls face down! (v4) Korah had ambitions for a higher level of authority and all the perks that went with it.

Korah's application of these scriptural truths was wrong and he ultimately lost his position and his life as a result.

The application for us is clear.

- Don't let desire for what someone else has; make you discontented with what you do have!
- Don't try to raise your own profile by attacking someone else's!
- Don't use part of God's word to support what you want without it being in the context of the whole of God's word.
- Don't expect to find satisfaction in position and power. God may just want us where we are!

Where we are, is where God wants us right now (Acts 17:26). If that changes he will let us know! We need to be content in the sovereign plan he has for his chosen people.

'For I know the plans I have for you' (Jer. 29:11)