

Saturday 7th November

Numbers 11: 24-30

Key verse 11: 29

29 *But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!"*

- Which letters of the alphabet are always jealous? NV!
- Our envy of others devours us most of all. Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

In v29 Moses sees the motive behind Joshua's outburst as jealousy. This is a powerful emotion that affects all of us at times.

For some reason Eldad and Medad were not around the Tent of Meeting as God had requested. They were just 2 of the 70 chosen by Moses but had remained in the camp. 68 were prophesying at the Tent, presumably to themselves, while 2 were speaking God's word in the camp (where the people would be?)

Neither the 68 nor the 2 are condemned for their actions and all 70 had been given the Spirit!

We have read recently of the importance of meeting together - it is directed by God. Here are 68 following that request but the 2 who were absent on this occasion were still spreading God's word and were still members of the 70!! (May the Holy Spirit help to draw your own applications to this)

When this situation is brought to the attention of Moses, Joshua asks Moses to stop them! Moses identifies his opposition as jealousy! Perhaps Joshua, who is very close to Moses, feels his own authority is being threatened or that this was an insult to Moses. Moses, in his reply, makes it clear that he doesn't have a problem with Eldad and Medad!

Jealousy happens when we think others are getting something that we aren't. It's a sin. (Exodus 20 v 17). Maybe Joshua was jealous that Eldad & Medad were somehow gaining favour with the people in their absence. Or maybe he thought they were just stepping out of line and not following the protocols.

Are our thoughts and actions (particularly in church) motivated by jealousy? Jealousy of others often results in us putting ourselves down. We feel 'they' are better than us. Moses didn't see it that way and in church all of us are gifted in a unique and important way.

The world thinks of leadership as self-sufficiency, status, ambition and control. Moses steps out of that mould preferring to show spiritual maturity and humility in wishing the Spirit be granted to all God's people. A great lesson for all in ministry!