

Friday November 6th

Numbers 11:16-25

Key verses 11: 16-17

**16** The Lord said to Moses: *“Bring me seventy of Israel’s elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the tent of meeting, that they may stand there with you. 17 I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them. They will share the burden of the people with you so that you will not have to carry it alone.*

‘Whatever life throws at us our individual responses will be all the stronger for working together and sharing the load.’ Queen Elizabeth 2nd

God recognises the pastoral burden for Moses is too great for him to bear alone. He recognises his despair and steps in to make sure the load is shared.

Can you imagine one pastor alone in a church today with a congregation of 600,000 men? (Plus women and children!!) It would be unheard of.

Back in Exodus 18 vs 13-26 in response to a wise suggestion from his father-in-law, Jethro, Moses appointed leaders to help with disputes among the people. These ‘judges’ helped in a practical way. Here God is telling Moses to appoint 70 men to help with pastoral issues. It’s interesting that these men were not appointed by some kind of election process but were chosen by God’s representative, Moses.

We learn in these verses that the Spirit of God is with Moses but not the others as yet. This, however, didn’t make him a superman. He didn’t have instant solutions to every problem and still ended up not being able to cope. (v14, 15)

We also must remember that even the most holy and Godly people known to us still have human limitations.

God now spreads the Spirit around among the 70 elders. God gifted them for their new role and the confirmation of the gift came when they were enabled to prophesy God’s word.

The New Testament endorses these same principles of Christian leadership. It is meant to be a shared responsibility. While God can and does raise up remarkable individuals for his purposes, we all now share the gifting of the Spirit that enables us to serve the church as described in 1 Cor. 12.

Two things stand out from verses 18-23. Be careful what you wish for and never doubt the power of God.

There is an interesting parallel between Moses doubting God’s ability to feed the people and Philip’s response to Jesus at the feeding of the 5,000. (John 6v7)

If Moses (and Philip) doubted God’s power despite having witnessed his miracles first hand, how much easier it is for us to do the same!

The routine of daily life can often lead us to think that God’s power has diminished. While God never changes our view of him often does. We mustn’t allow the monotony of day to day living rob us of the reality of God’s power!