

DISCUSSION/STUDY QUESTIONS

Read Numbers 20:1-12

1. How do you think the death of Miriam affected Moses and Aaron?
2. Has a difficult time in your life ever caused you to become more vulnerable regarding lashing out in anger?
3. How did the children of Israel demonstrate their lack of maturity? How should they have approached Moses and Aaron?
4. Why was the initial response of Moses and Aaron to the complaints of the people, the right one?
5. What did God tell Moses to do regarding the people's request and how did Moses veer from God's instruction?
6. In your mind, why did Moses respond to the people the way he did. In your mind was Moses justified in responding this way?
7. What was the penalty given to Moses and Aaron for the way they carried out God's instructions? Do you think the penalty was too severe?
8. What stands out to you as some of the major principles for leaders to learn from this passage?

Lessons On Leadership

Numbers 20:1-12

1 Then the sons of Israel, the whole congregation, came to the wilderness of Zin in the first month; and the people stayed at Kadesh. Now Miriam died there and was buried there. 2 And there was no water for the congregation; and they assembled themselves against Moses and Aaron. 3 The people thus contended with Moses and spoke, saying, "If only we had perished when our brothers perished before the LORD! 4 "Why then have you brought the LORD'S assembly into this wilderness, for us and our beasts to die here? 5 "And why have you made us come up from Egypt, to bring us in to this wretched place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, nor is there water to drink." 6 Then Moses and Aaron came in from the presence of the assembly to the doorway of the tent of meeting, and fell on their faces. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to them; 7 and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 8 "Take the rod; and you and your brother Aaron assemble the congregation and speak to the rock before their eyes, that it may yield its water. You shall thus bring forth water for them out of the rock and let the congregation and their beasts drink." 9 So Moses took the rod from before the LORD, just as He had commanded him; 10 and Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly before the rock. And he said to them, "Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?" 11 Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation and their beasts drank. 12 But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.

(NAS—New American Standard)



INTRODUCTION

1. The v_____ of Moses and Aaron - v1

Then the sons of Israel, the whole congregation, came to the wilderness of Zin in the first month; and the people stayed at Kadesh. Now Miriam died there and was buried there.

2. The i_____ of the Children of Israel - vv2-5

2 And there was no water for the congregation; and they assembled themselves against Moses and Aaron. 3 The people thus contended with Moses and spoke, saying, "If only we had perished when our brothers perished before the LORD! 4 "Why then have you brought the LORD'S assembly into this wilderness, for us and our beasts to die here? 5 "And why have you made us come up from Egypt, to bring us in to this wretched place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, nor is there water to drink."

3. The initial p_____ r_____ of Moses and Aaron - v6

Then Moses and Aaron came in from the presence of the assembly to the doorway of the tent of meeting, and fell on their faces. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to them;

4. The g_____ response from God - vv7,8

7 and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 8 "Take the rod; and you and your brother Aaron assemble the congregation and speak to the rock before their eyes, that it may yield its water. You shall thus bring forth water for them out

of the rock and let the congregation and their beasts drink."

5. The i_____ r_____ of Moses and Aaron - v13

9 So Moses took the rod from before the LORD, just as He had commanded him; 10 and Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly before the rock. And he said to them, "Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?" 11 Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation and their beasts drank.

6. The n_____ c_____ of acting in anger - v12

12 But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

CONCLUDING PRINCIPLES

- leaders need to realize their v_____
- leaders need to know that their l_____ will be q_____
- leaders must seek God f_____ when c_____ arise
- leaders must follow God's W_____ no matter how they f_____
- leaders must realize that f_____ to follow God equates with u_____ and can bring serious c_____