

# MOSES' GREAT SIN

## (Numbers 20:1-13)

- Introduction:
1. Moses was a great example of a faithful servant of God, and is listed in Hebrews 11 in recognition of this truth.
  2. But after nearly 40 years of service in the wilderness, Moses commits a sin that kept him from entering the promised land.
  3. This lesson is intended to examine his sin, and determine why it was so consequential.

### I. MOSES' SIN

- A. The Death Of Miriam.
  1. (20:1).
- B. The Complaint Of Israel.
  1. (20:2-6).
  2. They had no water and rose against Moses and Aaron.
  3. This has happened before (Exodus 17:1-4).
  4. The complainers' loose perspective.
- C. The Commandment Of God.
  1. (20:7-8).
  2. Told to speak to the rock and it will bring forth water.
- D. The Sin Of Moses.
  1. (20:9-13).
  2. Instead of speaking to the rock, Moses strikes it twice.
  3. God then, refused to allow Moses to enter the Promised Land.

### II. WHY THIS SIN WAS SO CONSEQUENTIAL

- A. Disobedience.
  1. God told Moses to speak to the rock, but Moses struck it instead (20:8).
  2. God has always demanded strict obedience to His expressed will.
    - a. Nadab & Abihu (Lev. 10:1-2).
    - b. Cain & Able (Gen. 4).
- B. Anger.
  1. Moses was angry at God's people and openly expressed his anger at them.
  2. He called them a bunch of rebels (20:10).
  3. This is quite a contrast to the normal character of Moses (Num. 12:3).
  4. Our strongest areas are sometimes our most vulnerable.
    - a. Moses was meek, but lost control.
    - b. Peter was brave, but became a coward.
- C. Glorified Self.
  1. Must **"WE"** bring water forth (20:10).
  2. He did not hallow God (20:12).

- D. Misrepresented God To The People.
  - 1. Moses was angry with the people, but from (v.8), there is no indication that God is angry.
  - 2. You'll know it when God is angry (Numbers 16:45).

### **III. LESSONS WE SHOULD LEARN FROM MOSES' SIN**

- A. Disobedience is not overlooked by God (Acts 17:30; Hebrews 5:9).
- B. Be careful to guard all areas of your life, even your strong areas (I Cor. 10:12).
- C. Make sure that we give God the glory for the good we can accomplish in our lives (I Peter 4:11; I Cor. 10:31).
- D. If you are going to speak for God, be sure you know what you are talking about (James 3:1).

- Conclusion:
- 1. Though Moses was a great man of exemplary faith, he battled with sin.
  - 2. We can expect no less.
  - 3. But hopefully, we can learn from Moses' mistake, and thus stumble less than we would have.