

Working Against A Leader

(Numbers 16)

- Introduction:
1. We live in a society that permits some rather outspoken opposition to our leadership.
 2. It's considered acceptable in many ways to be a critic.
 3. However, we need to be careful that such attitudes do not spill over into the Kingdom of God, for such criticism in the kingdom is considered as sinful rebellion.
 4. Let's examine an Old Testament story that speaks many lessons to us today.

I. Invalid Reasoning Can Lead To Error

- A. (Numbers 16:1-3).
- B. While it was true that "all were holy," it was not true that therefore all would have the same responsibility.
- C. God has the right to place special responsibility on some servants and not on others (Hebrews 13:17).

II. Be Satisfied With The Service You Perform

- A. (Numbers 16:8-10).
- B. Not everyone has the same function in the Kingdom of God.
- C. We are a body, all functioning differently, but all necessary (Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12).

III. Complaints Often Grow Larger Than Reality

- A. (Numbers 16:12-14).
- B. What was a matter of "authority" has been blown up to the point they are now accusing Moses of violence and lording over them.
- C. Often people will blow things out of proportion to gain a hearing (1 Timothy 5:19).

IV. God Punished Those Who Opposed His Appointed Leadership

- A. (Numbers 16:32-33).
- B. Delayed punishment today may cause some to think they are getting away with rebellion.
- C. (Philippians 2:14; Proverbs 6:19).

V. The Residual Effects Of Rebellion Live On, Even After We Are Dead

- A. (Numbers 16:41-50).
- B. Over 14,000 people died because of the rebellion that Korah started.
- C. We have a tremendous impact on the lives of others.
- D. (Romans 14:7).

- Conclusion:
1. Let us be careful to follow, work with, and support our leaders.
 2. In so doing, peace, love, and unity will prevail – and where these things prevail, souls will be saved.