

In search of...

Truth & Right

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Things Moses Saw

In Deuteronomy 34, we can read about how Moses, at the end of his life went to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah. From there the Lord God showed him the promised land of Canaan. This was a bittersweet moment, because although he could see the land, he himself was not allowed to enter into it. This was due to his disobedience and failure to give God the glory, recorded for us in Numbers 20, when he struck the rock rather than speaking to it as the Lord commanded.

So Moses, before he died, saw the land as God had promised him. But was that all that he saw? Surely not, considering all that he had done and seen in his lifetime. No, as we will examine, Moses saw a lot more reflecting back from Mt. Pisgah.

Firstly, he saw that the ends do not, under any circumstance, justify the means. We might from a purely human perspective look at

what happened at Meribah and say, "So what? What's the big deal? The people were grumbling, and they wanted water, and they still got it." However, such flawed logic completely overlooks God's command in the first place. Similar human thinking can be seen in Rom. 3:5-8. "But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) By no means! For then how could God judge the world? But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? And why not do evil that good may come? -as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just."

Not only that, but what Moses also knew (and what we should also realize) is that our sins will always find us out. They are not hidden from God, and even if we

think that we can avoid the consequences for a while, we cannot avoid them for long. Num. 32:23 says, "But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out." Not that Moses is rare in this; there are countless examples from the Bible teaching us the exact same lesson. Remember when Achan took some of the spoils from Jericho? That did not remain a mystery for long. What about David committing adultery with Bathsheba? Try as he did to cover it up, that sin would not go away.

Another thing that Moses saw, without a doubt, was that sin, no matter how good the intentions, is still sin! Prov. 14:12 tells us, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." Again, in what Moses did, he may have just wanted to provide water to a thirsty people and put an end to their complaining. But his actions kept him out of Canaan. Isn't that similar to Uzzah? He was just doing his job, transporting the Ark of the Covenant, and it was David's fault that the Ark wasn't being carried as God told them to. When he put out his hand, it was to keep the Ark from falling over and hitting the ground, because it was holy and he did not want it to be on the ground (just like we today do not want the flag to touch the ground, it is disrespectful). Nevertheless, that was sin, and it cost Uzzah his life.

Going up Mt. Pisgah, as the Lord commanded him, Moses realized something else: the wages of sin are certain. Many people, even if they realize that sin is still sin, and that there are consequences to sin, want to rationalize and debate as to what those consequences are and think that they may be altered or lessened in some way. Obviously Moses was, overall, a good man; throughout his life he listened to God and led the Israelites. He received the law and instructed the people in the construction of the Ark, the Tabernacle, and regarding all the sacrifices and commandments that God had given them. It was, quite literally, a lifetime of service.

So maybe the Lord would have leniency? Perhaps taking all of these other things into account, He would change his mind about Moses not bringing the Israelites into the land, yes? No. God says what He means and means what He says. Look at Heb. 2:1-3. "Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,"

Finally, what Moses knew there on Mt. Pisgah, before his

life here ended, was that others may influence us to sin, but we are held accountable for our own actions. Think back again to his words & actions that are recorded in Numbers 20. The people were whining and complaining. They were blaming him, and they were in essence blaming God, and saying that they would rather go back to Egypt! They pushed him, and stressed him to a boiling point, so is it any wonder that he blew up at them?

Well, frankly, no. It makes perfect sense that Moses got so upset. But in the end, he could not just say that it was the people's fault. He was the one who did not give God the glory, and he was the one who struck the rock instead of speaking to it like the Lord instructed. 2 Cor. 5:10 says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil." The blame game is nothing new. It happened all the way back in the Garden of Eden. But it did not work then, and it will not work now or on the day of judgment.

Having said all of that, however, we do know that God loves us and that He is merciful and forgiving. We do sin and sin has consequences and some of those are inescapable. But Jesus bled and died so that we might have those sins forgiven and escape eternal punishment. Thanks be to God! Let us live by a trusting, obedient faith, serving Him!

Jarred Currence

*Happy Moments,
Praise God.*

*Difficult Moments,
Seek God.*

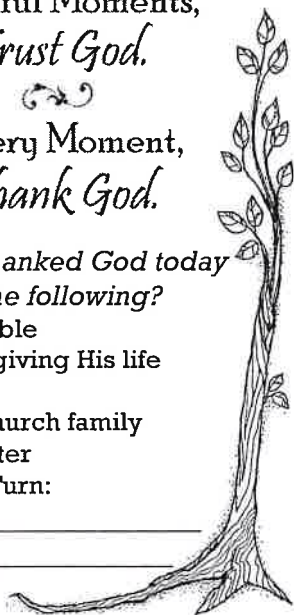
*Quiet Moments,
Worship God.*

*Painful Moments,
Trust God.*

*Every Moment,
Thank God.*

*Have you thanked God today
for any of the following?*

- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life for us
- Our church family
- Laughter
- Your Turn:



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92 Rose Cottage Lane
Wellsburg, WV 26070
304-737-1422

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BIBLE Trivia!

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. What sign did God set in the clouds to indicate that He would never again flood the world?

- a) A silver lining
- b) Lightning bolts
- c) The rainbow
- d) Sunbeams shining through

2. In Jesus' parable of the lost sheep, how many sheep were in the field?

- a) Ten
- b) A hundred
- c) A thousand
- d) Fifty

3. Who wrote a letter recommending Apollos to the Corinthian church?

- a) The Ephesian church
- b) Aquila
- c) Timothy
- d) The Colossian church

4. Who said, "My punishment is greater than I can bear."?

- a) Judas
- b) Cain
- c) Saul of Tarsus
- d) Jesus

5. What sort of person had to shave all his hair twice, six days apart?

- a) A foreigner that the Israelites had taken captive
- b) Anyone who had touched a dead body
- c) A Nazirite
- d) A leper

6. Who died after falling out of a window during Paul's sermon?

- a) Demas
- b) Apollos
- c) Eutychus
- d) Tabitha

7. For what did the Israelites give up their rings and other jewelry?

- a) As a sacrifice to enter Canaan
- b) As part of observing the Passover
- c) As tribute to the Philistines who had conquered them
- d) As a freewill offering for the tabernacle

8. How long had Lazarus been in his tomb when Jesus came?

- a) A week
- b) Two weeks
- c) For four days
- d) For several hours

9. What commendable deed was done by a poor widow Jesus saw in the temple?

- a) She put two mites in the treasury
- b) She washed the feet of others
- c) She was singing praise to God
- d) She sold animals for sacrifice

10. How was Elijah taken up into Heaven?

- a) In a pillar of cloud
- b) By a long stairway
- c) An angel picked him up and carried him away
- d) In a whirlwind

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS & VERSES:

- 1) B, Reference: Jonah 2:2
- 2) A, Reference: 1 Kings 19:21
- 3) B, Reference: Amos 6:1
- 4) D, Reference: Isaiah 46:1
- 5) C, Reference: 1 Kings 19:5-8

- 6) C, Reference: 11 Samuel 12:1-7
- 7) A, Reference: Jeremiah 4:25
- 8) D, Reference: Zechariah 5:9
- 9) B, Reference: Hosea 2:18
- 10) A, Reference: Ezekiel 27:15