

# *Learning From One Man's Sin*

## **Num 20:1-13**

(Zeke Flores, reworked from outlines by David Riggs, John Cripps)

**Intro:** *There are no better examples to learn from than the failings of others.*

- A. It's a recognized concept among men...
  - 1. *"He who does not learn from history is doomed to repeat it." Or "Those who don't learn from the mistakes..."*
- B. The concept is a Biblical one.
  - 1. *"Now these things happened as to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction.." 1 Cor 10:11*
  - 2. Though this is said of the Israelites, it can also be said of Moses himself.
  - 3. Are familiar with the sin of Moses recorded in Num 20
    - a. Tho Aaron was also involved, we usually consider it Moses' sin, perhaps because we expect him to have known better.
  - 4. What can we learn from this one man's sin?

### **I. First, notice some aspects of Moses' sin**

- A. Anger - Num 20:10 *"Listen now you rebels!"*
  - 1. Consider **Psalm 106:32-33**
  - 2. Moses' sin clearly sprang from his anger with Israelites
    - a. But doesn't excuse him for a moment.
  - 3. We're warned: *"Be angry and do not sin" Eph 4:26*
- B. Disobedience - Num 20:8, 11
  - 1. Told to speak to the rock, he struck it twice.
  - 2. He *did* speak, but not to the rock!
  - 3. Simple disobedience, yet great consequences.
- C. Transgression
  - 1. Transgress from Heb " 'abar" - "to cross over"
  - 2. Consider **2 John :9** *"Whoever transgresses and does not ..."*
    - a. NAS - *"goes too far"* NIV - *"runs ahead"*
  - 3. Moses simply went too far!
- D. Dishonored God - Num 20:10, 12
  - 1. *"Shall we bring forth water..."*
    - a. "We" refers to Moses and Aaron - God was left out!
  - 2. He didn't treat God as holy by the fact He didn't acknowledge that God is above all, over all, and thus able to do anything He says.
- E. All this led to God's prohibiting Moses from entering the land he waited 40 years to see.
  - 1. **WHY?**
- F. Unbelief - Num 20:12 *"Because you have not believed Me ..."*
  - 1. Who knows why Moses didn't believe God.
  - 2. Could it be he didn't really think that water would flow?
  - 3. Whatever the reason, he exhibited a lack of trust in God.
    - a. If there's ONE thing the Bible teaches, it's that God is trustworthy.
    - b. *"If we are faithless, He remains faithful for He cannot deny Himself." 2 Tim 2:13*

G. Belief / Unbelief lies at center of all we do/don't do for God

1.

Unbelief	Belief
Anger	Meekness, humility
Disobedience	Obedience
Transgression	Respect for God
Dishonor God	Honor God

2. Though I'm convinced Moses was forgiven by God and we'll see him in heaven, still Moses had to accept the consequences for his sin. His example helps us see the importance of some...

**II. Lessons from one man's sin**

A. No one is above sin.

1. Moses was one of the "greats."
  - a. **Num 12:7-8      Deut 34:10-12**
  - b. Still, he blew it.
2. No one is immune to sin
  - a. *"If we say we have no sin, we are deceiving.."* **1 John 1:8**
3. For this reason, God shows no partiality. No one has a "special deal" with Him.
  - a. **1 Pet 1:17, 4:17-18**

B. We may sin in the way least expected

1. If *anyone* knew the reliability and power of God it was Moses!
  - a. His manner of sin was out of character for him, yet God held him responsible.
2. Was the same with Peter. He always seemed confident.
  - a. **Matt 26:31-35**
3. Despite our best intentions, we sometimes do the stupidest things.
  - a. *"Let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall."* **1 Cor 10:12**

C. God expects exact obedience.

1. Sometimes we think we know better than God!
  - a. *"There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."* **Prov 16:25 (Prov 14:12)**
2. We need to remind ourselves that the end does NOT justify the means.
  - a. Israel was thirsty, Moses brought water from a rock.
  - b. No doubt the people said, *"Speak to it, strike it. Who cares? Just as long as we get water!"*
3. Some who claim to be God' people have the same attitude
  - a. *"So what if we have a Missionary Organization? Look at how many men we can send out!"*
  - b. *"So we have a gym and a coffee shop. Look at all the people we're bringing in!"*
  - c. *"So we let the women lead prayer, serve the Lord's Supper and preach. They do a good job and the people like it!"*
4. The apostle Paul addressed all such attitudes
  - a. **Rom 3:8**
5. The fact is, just as God's people of old, spiritual Israel today is *still* required to obey Him in every way.
  - a. *"Whatever you do in word or deed..."* **Col 3:17**
  - b. *"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."* **Prov 3:6**
  - c. *"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him-- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."* **John 12:48**

**Conc** *Moses was a great, godly man. But he still sinned.*

A. Such is the lot of all men and women.

1. *“For all have sinned and fallen short...” Rom 3:23*

2. *“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Rom 6:23*

B. Are you *in Christ*?

1. If so, are you treating God as holy by believing Him, trusting Him, obeying Him?

C. **INV**