

Numbers 11 Pt 2 - Share the Burden

Num 11:1-3 NIV **Now the people complained** about their hardships in the hearing of the LORD, and when he heard them **his anger was aroused**. Then fire from the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp. 2 When **the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the LORD and the fire died down**. 3 So that place was called **Taberah**, because fire from the LORD had burned among them.

How Moses was affected by the complaining

10 **Moses heard** the people of every family wailing at the entrance to their tents. The LORD became exceedingly angry, and **Moses was troubled**.

He blamed the LORD for his trouble

- 11 He asked the LORD, "**Why have you brought this trouble** on your servant?"
 - Gen 3:11-12 NIV And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" 12 The man said, "**The woman you put here** with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

His idea of cause and effect was misguided

- **What have I done to displease you** that you put the burden of all these people on me?
 - Joh 9:2-3 NIV His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."
- **There is a need to understand the bigger picture**
 - 2Co 12:7-9 NIV or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you**, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

There was a loss of compassion and tender care

- 12 Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? **Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant**, to the land you promised on oath to their ancestors?
 - 1Th 2:7-8 NIV Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, 8 so we cared for you. **Because we loved you** so much, **we were delighted** to share with you not only the gospel of God but **our lives as well**.

He was depleted - He drew upon His own LIMITED resources instead of the LORD

- 13 **Where can I get meat** for all these people? **They keep wailing to me**, 'Give us meat to eat!' 14 **I cannot carry** all these people by myself; **the burden is too heavy** for me.

Despair

- 15 If this is how you are going to treat me, please **go ahead and kill me**--if I have found favor in your eyes--and do not let me face my own ruin."

He lost sight of God's power and faithfulness to His word

- **[see also]** 21 But Moses said, "Here I am among six hundred thousand men on foot, **AND YOU SAY, 'I will give them meat to eat for a whole month!'** 22 Would they have enough if flocks and herds were slaughtered for them? Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?" 23 The LORD answered Moses, ***"Is the LORD's arm too short? Now you will see whether or not what I say will come true for you."***
- Another indictment of the LORD - He promised something, but He can't deliver
- God's fulfillment of His word pushes this into the arena of the impossible
 - 5 loaves and 2 fish
- **Is the LORD's arm too short?**

They will stand with you, they will share the burden

16 The LORD said to Moses: "Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are **known to you as leaders and officials among the people**. Have them come to the tent of meeting, **that they may stand there with you**. 17 I will come down and speak with you there, and **I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them. *They will share the burden*** of the people with you so that you will not have to carry it alone.

- **They will stand with you**
- **BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH - *They need an anointing from the Spirit***
 - "I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them"
- **They will share the burden**

The effect of the Spirit

24 So Moses went out and told the people what the LORD had said. He brought together seventy of their elders and had them stand around the tent. 25 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took some of the power of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. **When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied**--but did not do so again. 26 However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the tent. Yet **the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp**. 27 A young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." 28 Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide since youth, spoke up and said, "Moses, my lord, stop them!" 29 But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? **I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!**"

In the last days I will pour out of *my spirit* on all flesh

Just as the LORD put some of Moses spirit on the seventy

The LORD says he will pour out HIS Spirit on all people

- Act 2:17 NIV ""In the last days, God says, **I will pour out my Spirit on all people.** Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

Elijah and Elisha

Elijah asked for a double portion of the spirit of Elijah

Elijah took his cloak and split the Jordan river

When Elijah went to heaven, his mantle fell to earth - and Elijah picked it up...

Elisha took the cloak and split the Jordan river

The people said the spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha

Jesus and the Holy Spirit

Jesus ascended to heaven - He has sent forth His Holy Spirit

In a sense his mantle has fallen to earth

May people see the spirit of Jesus resting on us

- The things that I do shall you do also and greater works shall you do
- Jesus said the laborers are few - pray that he would send forth laborers into his field