

Numbers 15 - Hope

Num 15:1-4 NIV The LORD said to Moses, 2 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: '**After you enter the land I am giving you as a home** 3 and **you present to the LORD food offerings** from the herd or the flock, **as an aroma pleasing to the LORD**--whether burnt offerings or sacrifices, for special vows or freewill offerings or festival offerings-- 4 then the person who brings an offering shall present to the LORD **a grain offering** of a tenth of an ephah of **the finest flour** mixed with a **quarter of a hin of olive oil**.

After you enter the land

- It was a **rebuke** to those who walked in unbelief and rebellion against the LORD
 - He just told all over the age of 20 they would be 40 yrs then die in the wilderness
- **Now His first words in this chapter look to the future with HOPE**

Why is HOPE so important?

1) **Because it looks to the future** -- When the LORD says "**AFTER YOU ENTER THE LAND**" he is setting their hope on an event that will take place **40 years from now**

2) **The future is linked to the plans of God - we can't change our past - but we can have HOPE**

- Jer 29:11 NIV For I know the **plans** I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, **plans to give you hope and a future**.
- This was spoken to people who would spend **70 years in captivity in Babylon**

3) **The power of HOPE**

- Rom 4:18-21 ESV 18 **In hope he believed against hope**, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." 19 **He did not weaken in faith** when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. **20 No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God**, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 **fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised**.

How did the LORD encourage those in the wilderness with HOPE?

There is HOPE because they WILL enter the land -- -- "As you enter the LAND"

There is HOPE because the LORD can still work in our children even in the face of our failures

- God is committed to HIS PURPOSE

There is HOPE because they are moving to a HOME -- "I am giving you as a HOME"

- It's nice to camp, but you want a HOME - vs 13 he speaks of those who will be **Native born**

There is HOPE because the LORD is speaking about future crops

- Grain offering, finest flour, olive oil (**He is speaking to people who are eating MANNA**)

There is HOPE - The LORD describes relationship (eating, aroma) - He is not cold toward them

You can be an aroma pleasing to the LORD as well

- An aroma pleasing to the Lord is mentioned 6x in this chapter -- Vs 3, 7, 10, 13, 14, 24
- **By Imitating His love** -- Eph 5:1-2 ESV Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And **walk in love**, as Christ loved us and **gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering** and sacrifice to God.
- **By giving to others** -- Php 4:18-19 ESV I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus **the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering**, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. 19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

There is an expectation in this relationship

1) An expectation of giving to the LORD

- 18 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: **"When you enter the land to which I am taking you** 19 and you eat the food of the land, ***present a portion as an offering to the LORD***. 20 Present a loaf ***from the first of your ground meal*** and present it as an offering from the threshing floor. 21 **Throughout the generations to come you are to give this offering to the LORD from the first of your ground meal.**
- **Giving tithes and offerings is a way of reminding yourself that EVERYTHING I HAVE COMES FROM HIM**
- **Giving tithes and offerings is an expectation that HE places upon us - *it is an offering to the LORD*** - (How can you give a check to the LORD?)
- **You might say it is a waste - can you imagine taking a bull - (comparable to a tractor or transportation, or food for your family, and putting it on a fire to be burnt up?**

Unintentional and Intentional sin

2) An expectation of honoring His word

22 "'Now if you as ***a community unintentionally*** fail to keep any of these commands the LORD gave Moses-- 23 any of the LORD's commands to you through him, from the day the LORD gave them and continuing through the generations to come-- 24 and if this is done unintentionally without the community being aware of it, then the whole community is to **offer a young bull for a burnt offering as an aroma pleasing to the LORD**

Intentional sin

30 "'But anyone who sins defiantly, whether native-born or foreigner, **blasphemes the LORD and must be cut off from the people of Israel**. 31 Because they have despised the LORD's word and broken his commands, they must surely be cut off; their guilt remains on them."

Gathering wood on the Sabbath

32 While the Israelites were in the wilderness, a man was found gathering wood on the Sabbath day. 33 Those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron and the whole assembly, 34 and they kept him in custody, because it was not clear what should be done to him. 35 Then the LORD said to Moses, "The man must die. The whole assembly must stone him outside the camp." 36 So the assembly took him outside the camp and stoned him to death, as the LORD commanded Moses. 37 The LORD said to Moses,

- Open defiance toward the LORD is what got them into this predicament in the first place
- Don't continue in that vein of thinking
- Instead...set your heart to remember so that you might obey

Remembrance for obedience

- 38 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'Throughout the generations to come you are to make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel. **39 You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the LORD, that you may obey them** and not prostitute yourselves by chasing after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes.

The problem with the Pharisees -

Mat 23:5 NIV "Everything they do is done ***for people to see***: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long;

- They wanted everyone else to see their tassels
- **God wanted THEM to see their tassels** so they could be reminded toward obedience