

Introduction

This is our fourth week of looking at this **confessional prayer for pardon**. I didn't start out on this Psalm thinking it was going to take this long, but it has!

If you've missed any of the first three messages, let me encourage you to please go to our website and catch up on the details of what you have missed. They are important!

I'm just going to briefly summarize what we have seen thus far here. God's People (Israel) had messed up in back in Moses' Day and they continued to mess up in the same ways all the way until the LORD finally had enough and allowed them to be carried out of the Land Of Promise into captivity in a foreign land!

The writer of this Psalm (Daniel ?) is both confessing and identifying with these sins of Israel and the nation of Judah that have their roots all the way back to Moses' day!

In the first message we saw that ISRAEL'S first mess up was:

I. THEY UNDERSTOOD NOT GOD'S WONDERS! (Vs 7)
Only GOD could have done the miraculous things the LORD had done for them! But ISRAEL failed to understand GOD'S WONDERS on their behalf!

We said that we too can be guilty of **not understanding GOD'S WONDERS that HE has done and continues to do on our behalf!** (What GOD did to bring us to SALVATION and more!)

Regardless of what we may face today or tomorrow, let's understand that **GOD** is good and He has been good to us and He will **NOT** forsake us! Let's not lose the wonder of what the **LORD** has done!

II. THEY REMEMBERED NOT GOD'S WORKS! (Vs 13)
ISRAEL had very short memories!

The LORD did something good for ISRAEL when HE parted the RED SEA! They even sang HIS praises immediately afterward! But four days later when they faced another challenge, they had totally forgotten what the LORD had previously done for them! They went back to griping and complaining!

We need to be careful that our memories aren't short as well! Don't forget the many ways GOD has been so good to us!

III. THEY BELIEVED NOT GOD'S WORD! (Vs 24)
The LORD gave the children of ISRAEL HIS WORD!

They had ABRAHAMIC COVENANT given to their forefathers!

They had the LORD'S WORD given them before they departed EGYPT!

They had the LORD'S WORD given them at MT. SINAI!

The spies that were sent into the land saw with their own eyes and brought back the fruit confirming that the land was just as the LORD had told them!

But they could not believe that the LORD would give them victory over the inhabitants of the land! So they refused to go in and possess the land! And they were ready to stone MOSES, AARON, JOSHUA, and CALEB and appoint new leadership to take them back to EGYPT!

By not believing the **WORD OF GOD**, they were implying that the **LORD was a liar!**

It is easy for us to rail on the ISRAELITES for their unbelief, but how many times do our actions prove that **WE** don't believe the **LORD'S WORD** like we should.

Let's pick up in *Psalm 106:28-31* tonight...

IV. **THEY INVOLVED THEMSELVES IN BOTH IDOLATRY AND IMMORALITY BEFORE ENTERING THE LAND! (Vs 28-31)**

A. **Let's Understand The Background Of What Was Going On Here. (Turn To *Numbers 25:1* and we'll be there shortly.)**

When we were in **JUDE**, we saw the **ERROR OF BALAAM** and we said **PETER** also mentioned the **WAY OF BALAAM** and even **JOHN** mentioned the **DOCTRINE OF BALAAM**.

BALAK, the King of the **MOABITES**, sought out the services of the hireling prophet **BALAAM** to curse **ISRAEL** for him. (*Numbers 22:1-6*)

To **BALAAM'S** credit, he did seek what the **LORD** had to say about what **BALAK** was asking him to do. (*Numbers 22:7-11*)

But despite the **LORD** clearly prohibiting **BALAAM** from accompanying **BALAK'S** messengers (*Numbers 22:12*), **BALAAM** was so eager for his fee that he sought **GOD** again for permission to go. (*Numbers 22:19-20*)

The appearance of **THE ANGEL OF THE LORD** served as a vivid warning to **BALAAM** to speak only what **GOD** wanted him to speak. (*Numbers 22:21-41*)

But **GOD** clearly knew the heart of **BALAAM** and what his intentions were! *2 Peter 2:16*—“*The dumb ass. . . forbad the madness of the prophet.*”

BALAAM tried three times to bribe **GOD** with sacrifices to let him curse **ISRAEL**. (*Numbers 23:1-24:9*) In the end, **BALAAM** found himself compelled by **GOD** to pronounce **GOD'S** blessing on **ISRAEL** instead of a curse.

When the furious **BALAK** threatened not to pay **BALAAM** “*handsomely*,” **BALAAM** thought of a clever maneuver by which **MOAB** might corrupt **GOD'S** people.

His counsel was to get **ISRAEL** to intermarry with the **MOABITES** and corrupt themselves with **MOAB'S** ways and then the **LORD** would **HIMSELF** have to curse **ISRAEL**.

Now we read in *NUMBERS 25:1-13* what *PSALM 106:28-31* is speaking about!

Also look at Numbers 31:1-2, 7-16

B. **ISRAEL Corrupted Themselves By A Combination Of Idolatry And Immorality!**

They corrupted themselves by first joining in fornication with the women of **MOAB**, thereby defiling their separation unto the **LORD**, and abandoning their character as **THE LORD'S HOLY PEOPLE!**

And having corrupted themselves in this way, they were called by the **MOABITES** to join them in the worship of their god, **BAAL-PEOR!** They joined in the worship of **BAAL** (which would have included the practice of **immorality** and they ate the of the sacrifices that were offered to the dead idol! This angered the **LORD** who sent a plague in their midst that took out 24,000 of them!

C. **Let's See Warning Against These Things In The CHURCH! (*1 Corinthians 6:9-20; 10:7-8, 14*)**

If you think this doesn't apply in our day because we don't have idols, then you would be wrong!

The idols of today's Believer are just more sophisticated today than they were in Moses' day and even in Paul's day!

(Even though Paul referenced one of today's **sophisticated idols** even in his day in *Colossians 3:5-7!*)

WHERE GOD'S PEOPLE MESS UP

PART 4

PSALM 106:28-33

“Fornication” refers to *sexual immorality in general.*

“Uncleanness” refers to *“lustful impurity that is connected with luxury and loose living.”*

“Inordinate affection” refers to *“a state of mind that excites sexual impurity.”* The person who cultivates this kind of appetite will most always seek an opportunity to satisfy it.

“Evil concupiscence” means *“base, evil desires.”*

“Covetousness which is idolatry” is the sin of always wanting more, whether it be more things OR more pleasures.

The *covetous* person is **never satisfied with what he has**, and is usually envious of what other people have.

That is *idolatry*, because *covetousness* puts things in the place of **GOD!**

What is the first of the TEN COMMANDMENTS?

Ex. 20:3–“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

What is the last of the TEN COMMANDMENTS?

Exodus 20:17–“Thou shalt not covet...”

This sin of coveting breaks the very first commandment as well! A covetous person puts what they covet ahead of God! (It can also cause them to take God's name in vain, lie, steal, and commit every other sin in order to satisfy his sinful desires!)

It is clear that our **desires** lead to **deeds**, our **appetites** lead to **actions!** So, if we want to **purify our actions**, then we must first and foremost **purify our minds and hearts!**

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Listen to me, **what we desire** usually determines **what we do.** If we **develop an appetite** for sweets, then we will **seek to satisfy that appetite** for sweets.

Then when it begins to affect our health, the doctor tells us that we must **change our appetites!** (i.e. So, if we are concerned about our health, we must learn how to enjoy foods other than sweets! That is difficult to do!)

If we have **developed the wrong appetites in our heart**, Dr. Paul tells us **we must kill those old appetites and we must develop new appetites!**

How in the world can we do that?

Romans 12:2– “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

David, in his confessional *Psalm 51:10* cried out...

“Create in me a clean heart, O God”

How did the LORD do that? (*Psalm 119* in action)

That should be our prayer; for it is out of the heart that these evil desires come! (*Mark 7:21–23*)

Do believers in local Churches commit such sins? Yes, unfortunately, **sometimes GOD'S people still mess up in these areas of IMMORALITY and IDOLATRY!**

That's why in each of the Epistles to the local Churches we find warnings against such things!

May the LORD help us to MORTIFY those things daily and RENEW OUR MINDS with HIS WORD!

Quickly let's look at the fifth place WHERE GOD'S PEOPLE MESSED UP!

V. **THEY ANGERED THE LORD IN THEIR UNBELIEF TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT IT DIDN'T GO WELL FOR THEIR LEADER! (Vs 32-33)**

This sin of ISRAEL pushed MOSES over the edge such that he disobeyed the LORD and consequently was prevented from entering in the PROMISED LAND with the children of ISRAEL.

Let me summarize the story found in NUMBERS 20 that I think most of us are familiar with that is often called **THE SIN AT MERIBAH!**

ISRAEL was in the desert wandering in the wilderness, which was their own fault for not having gone in to possess the land that the LORD gave them! They came to **KADESH** and abode there. **MIRIAM** died there. But there was no water there.

So ISRAEL did what they were good at—They “*chode*” with **MOSES** and **AARON** because they didn't have any water! That word “*chode*” means “*to strive, quarrel, complain, or attack.*”

They accused **MOSES** and **AARON** of having intentionally brought them and their cattle into the wilderness to die! They called it an *evil place!* They complained that there was no seed or figs or vines or pomegranates and that there was no water to drink!

MOSES and **AARON** went to the door of the **TABERNACLE** and prostrated themselves (in exasperation I'm sure)! **Scripture doesn't even say that they said anything! They didn't have to!** The **LORD** showed up and told **MOSES** what to do!

When this happened before way back when they were only four days into their journey into the wilderness, the **LORD** had **MOSES** take the **ROD** and smite the **ROCK** at **REPHIDIM**, but this time the **LORD** told **MOSES** to take the **ROD** and speak to the **ROCK**.

Well, **MOSES** was fed up with the whole congregation—He was angry! And instead of speaking to the **ROCK**, **MOSES** spake to the **PEOPLE** these words recorded in *Numbers 20:9*— “*Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?*”

And **MOSES** was so mad that as he said that he **STRUCK THE ROCK** with the **ROD** twice! **Which of course was NOT what the LORD told him to do!**

Oh the water came out abundantly and they all drank and their cattle all drank, but MOSES was in trouble with the LORD!

Numbers 20:12–13— “*And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them. 13 This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with the LORD, and he was sanctified in them.*”

“*Meribah*” means “*strife.*” That's not the name of the place but a description of the circumstances surrounding the water provided. That's the same term used the first time in *Exodus 17:7*.

But get this—**GOD** sanctified Himself in them! How so? By the fact that, on the one hand, **He put their unbelief to shame by the miraculous gift of water**, and on the other hand **he punished Moses and Aaron for the weakness of their faith.**

Do things similar to this happen today? Sadly, yes! A man of **GOD** can get frustrated by a lack of **FAITH** and **FAITHFULNESS** among **GOD'S** flock such that he gets angry and responds in **ANGER** rather than in **FAITH in GOD** and it doesn't go well with him because of it!

Ephesians 4:26–27—“*26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil.*”

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PSALM 106:28-33

Conclusion

*THEY UNDERSTOOD NOT...REMEMBERED NOT...BELIEVED NOT...
THEY INVOLVED THEMSELVES IN IMMORALITY AND IDOLATRY...
THEY ANGERED THE LORD IN THEIR UNBELIEF SO THAT IT WENT ILL
FOR THEIR LEADERS...*

What is the remedy for the errors?

1. Cry out to the Lord. (Vs 44) Confession and repentance.
2. Rest in the promises of God. (Vs 45)
3. Rest in the mercies of God. (Vs 46)
4. Return to the Lord. (Vs 47)
5. Praise the Lord. (Vs 48)