In the Midst

Numbers 11:14-15; 1 Peter 4:19

Sermon Outline

A. Dark Places (Numbers 11:14-15):

1. **Alone** – This is for a person who is by themselves as a single unit separated and isolated from everyone.
   a) Sadly, Moses was smitten with self-pity as well as missing the point. He felt at the point of despair, so unfit to solve his people’s problem that he invited God just to let him die to have the burden off of him. ¹¹

2. **Able** - Moses is saying that he lacks the physical and moral ability to overcome the tremendous obstacle before him (vs. 11, 21-23). The ability to resolve these issues, in Moses mind is impossible to acquire (imperfect tense).
   a) He speaks to God as if God lays the burden of meeting Israel’s needs on him. God had already shown him time after time, in deep crises, that His miracle-working sufficiency could provide no matter what the need. He loses track of that, as many another leader of God has done. “Where am I to get meat … ?” he asks. Of course, he could have said, “You have shown your servant that You can provide. So, I look to You. You know just what to do and how to do it.”²²

3. **Carry** – Moses is saying he does not have the power within himself to take care of all the needs that are before him.
   a) When life seems overwhelming we then to exaggerate the circumstances (1 Kings 19:9-10).
   b) “I alone” – this is the same way Elijah felt when we ran from Jezebel into seclusion (1 Kings 19:9-14; 1 Peter 5:9-11).


c) “They weep before me” – Moses felt helpless, unable to do anything to resolve
the problem (see verse 21-23).

4.**Burdensome; Servere, grievous** – The needs of the people are extremely heavy for
Moses especially the fact that they had a stubborn heart.

   a) “Where am I to get meat” – Moses felt overwhelmed. In the desert, money from
   Egypt was spent to build the tabernacle, no crops to sell and which enemy has that
   much meat to provide?

5. **Deal** - Moses blames God for exercising tremendous skill in creating activities of
the people towards him.

6. **Please; I pray thee; now** – Moses urgently pleads with God to take his life.

7. **Killed** – Moses commands God to violently kill him.

   a) His words are loaded with intense emotion, for he was at the end of his
   rope, and he felt that it would be an act of mercy for God to take his life.³³
   (Exodus 14:15).

   b) Moses viewed the problem as God’s fault (vs. 14).

   c) Moses viewed death as better than life.

8. **Found favor** – Moses is asking God if his relationship with God has found a fix
state of being in a good place such that Moses can experience God’s grace and
kindness.

9. **Sight; Eyes** – As Moses stands in the presence of God he wants to know if the
inner countenance of God desires to provide him grace and kindness.

10. **See my wretchedness** – Moses does not want to come to a vivid understanding of
how evil and unethical he can become in violating the standards of God.

   a) **And let me not see my wretchedness. Let me not live to see the total
failure of my hopes and efforts.⁴⁴**

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Company.
11. See my wretchedness – Moses does not want to develop a bad, unpleasant negative attitude towards God and the people because of the circumstances he is experiencing.

B. Finding Light in Darkness (1 Peter 4:19):

1. Those who suffer – To suffer is to continually experience painful situations that are brought about by evil people.

   a) Those who suffer according to God’s will are those who share in Christ’s sufferings (v. 12), who are insulted in Christ’s name (v. 14), and who suffer as Christians rather than for doing something evil (vv. 15–16). The reference to God’s will here as in 3:17 indicates that all suffering passes through his hands (cf. 3:17), that nothing strikes a believer apart from God’s loving and sovereign control. When suffering strikes, believers should “commit themselves to their faithful Creator.” 5

2. According – The suffering took place because these believers were deeply committed to doing the will of God (2:21-25).

3. Will of God – The will of God takes place when God works out His divine purposes, through His Word, for His glory and honor.

4. Entrust – Peter commands these suffering saints to surrender to the direction of the Holy Spirit and deposit their lives into the safe keeping of God.

   a) The Greek word “commit” is a banking term meaning “to give in charge as a deposit.” Peter exhorts believers who are undergoing persecutions, that in view of the fact that these are allowed to come by God and are designed to purify their lives, they have every reason to trust Him to take care of them through all of their sufferings. 6

5. Soul – When a believer surrender to Christ it is with their inner most being (groans of their heart; Romans 8:28) which represents their deepest most intense pain they may experience.

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6. **A faithful** – God is reliable and dependable, so a believer can remain steadfast in their faith no matter what they are experiencing.

7. **Creator** – Peter seems to imply that we can depend on God because He is the One who is powerful to establish the earth and control its direction and development.

   a) While this is the only New Testament place in which God is called “Creator” (a central teaching of the Old Testament), Jesus himself viewed God’s creative activity as evidence that he could be trusted (Matt. 6:25–33; 10:29–31). **More important**, this passage in 1 Peter echoes Psalm 31:5: “Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.” Jesus in his greatest persecution used a phrase from this verse in Luke 23:46.\[7\]

8. **What is right** – A believer must continue to do what is the will of God because God is always in control.

   a) **According to the will of God**—(See on 1 Pe 3:17). God’s will that the believer should suffer (1 Pe 4:17), is for his good. One oldest manuscript and Vulgate read, “in well-doings”; contrast ill-doings, 1 Pe 4:15. **Our committing of ourselves to God is to be, not in indolent and passive quietism, but accompanied with active well-doings.**\[8\]

9. **What is right** – In the midst of all the chaos Peter stop doing what is good by cutting off the soldiers’ ears and cursing and lying when he was confronted about following Christ. He encourages these suffering believers to keep doing good works despite difficulties taking place around them.

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