

Step Into Scripture: Shadows

Day 64 Reading: Numbers 23—25 and Day 64 of Step Into Scripture

Week 10: Division in the Camp

The Israelites are now into their wilderness wandering, and we are going to explore the challenges they are facing. These challenges call for faith, obedience, and unity, but these are areas where we see the community fail continually, which leads to division among them. From our reading in this week's narrative, we can identify eight warning signs of division, including complaining, racism, fear, rebellion against leadership, and insincere repentance. Each example teaches us about the importance of trusting God's guidance and maintaining unity within the community. As we move through the accounts of disunity and the consequences Israel faces, we find that the remedy to all of this is the realization that "it's not about me," but rather our purpose is to bring glory to God through oneness of faith and purpose. This is how we ought to walk on the path toward the Promised Land.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Israel complained about their hardships even after being freed from slavery in Egypt?
 - Complaining set a tone of discord among the people, and they romanticized their past in Egypt despite their suffering.
 - Can you think of a time when you found yourself complaining instead of being grateful? How did that affect your perspective?
2. How can we address issues of racism within our communities based on the lesson from Miriam and Aaron's attitudes towards Moses' Cushite wife?
 - Racism is not just a modern issue, and God's desire is for unity among different nations.
 - What steps can you take in your own life to promote inclusivity and understanding among people from different backgrounds?
3. In Numbers 14:4, the Israelites wanted to choose a new leader and return to Egypt. What can this tell us about trust in leadership?
 - Rejecting Godly leadership can lead to rebellion and loss of direction.
 - Have you ever struggled to trust a leader? How did you handle that situation, and what did you learn from it?
4. What are some ways we might unintentionally spread fear instead of faith in challenging situations?
 - The spies' bad report spread fear among the Israelites and wrecked their unity.
 - Reflect on a recent situation where you either spread fear or hope. What could you have done differently to encourage faith?
5. Why is it important for leaders to act without bitterness, as highlighted by Moses' actions?
 - Even Moses had to guard against becoming embittered by the complaints of the people.
 - Think about a leader in your life who you admire. What qualities do they have that help them lead without bitterness?

Prayer

- Pray for unity in our gatherings, asking God to help us trust in His guidance.
- Seek God's help in recognizing and overcoming personal attitudes of complaint or division.
- Ask for strength to embrace diversity and unity within the body of Christ.
- Include any specific prayer requests from the group.