

Deuteronomy 1:19-28

“A Discouraging Word”

I. **The ingredients of discouragement**

A. V.26 – rebellion; they “*rebelled against the commandment of God”.*

- 1) *Rebellion against Biblical authority equates to rebellion against God Himself – Num. 14:1-11; 1 Sam. 8:7.*
- 2) *If man rebels against holy God, what chance is there of obedience to human authority? – Ps. 36:1*

B. V.27 – private complaining: “*...you complained in your tents...*”

- 1) Private complaining always leads to public rebellion/slander – Prov. 11:12-13; 12:16; 16:27-28; 17:9; Eccl. 5:6; 7:21-22; James 1:26; 4:11-12.
 - a) *You complain privately when you know your opinion will be condemned publicly, but that’s part of God’s plan in being a part of a mature group of believers: there’s correction in numbers – **Prov. 11:14**; 12: 1,15; 13:10, 20; **15: 12, 22**, 31-33; 19:20-21; **24:6b**; 25:12; **27:6**; 28:26; Ps. 1:1-2; James 3:17-18.*

C. V.27 – deception: “*Because the LORD hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us.*” – V.20-21, 29-32.

- 1) If God hated them & wanted to destroy them, He wouldn’t have bothered freeing them from bondage. He would have made a public spectacle of them all in Egypt.
 - a) *Private complaining leads to a deceived mind believing the absurd...typically because we’re surrounded by people who are following our own train of thought = there’s no reason or logic (social media) – Prov. 12:5, 17-22; 18:21; Eph. 4:25, 29-32.*

D. V.28 – close relationships – “*Where can we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our hearts.*”

1) Discouraged = to liquefy or waste; to melt

2) Our brethren = 12 spies; **10 voices discouraged/melted the hearts of a nation!**

a) *The power to discourage the most is found in the ones we most love & trust.*

i) “*Where can we go up?*” = where ever God leads you!!!

ii) We discourage others & ourselves when we start listening to the people around us more than the God above us – Col. 3:1-2.

II. **How did the “brethren” discourage everyone’s heart? – v.28**

A. Focusing on the people – “*The people are taller and greater than we*”

B. Focusing on their circumstances – “*The cities are great and fortified up to heaven.*”

C. Focusing on their past (select past – Num. 14:11) – “*Moreover, we have seen the sons of Anakim there.*” – Who were the Anakim? – Numbers 13:28, 33

1) *They were walking by sight and not by faith* – 2 Cor. 5:7.

a) We forget God’s faithfulness – Ps.78:10-11, 40-57.

i) We take matters into our own hands.

ii) We make decisions based on our own logic.

iii) We’re dominated by fear.

2) *Genuine faith is grounded in divine affirmation, not empirical / tangible evidence* – Heb. 11:1.

- a) *“Faith is not believing in spite of evidence...but obeying in spite of circumstances & consequences.” – Warren Wiersbe*

III. What’s the solution? How do we avoid being discouraged by a word & being a discouraging word?– Numbers 14:1-10

A. V.6 – stay *fervent for* the LORD.

1) *10 voices discouraged a nation, but 2 turned them back to God!*

- a) Num. 14:24; 32:11-12; Gal. 4:18

B. V.7-8 – stay *focused on* the LORD.

1) Focus on **God’s** promises & reality – Is. 26:3b; Phil. 4:6-9; Col. 3:1-2.

- a) *We become our focus.*

C. V.9 – stay *fearful of* the LORD; nothing/no one else – Matt. 10:28.

1) *The fear of the Lord keeps us from sin & produces obedience leading to blessing – Num. 14:26-38; Prov. 16:6; Ex. 20:20; Ps. 103:17-18; Luke 1:50*