**A BREAKING POINT**

Sunday School Lesson 13

*Wandering in the Wilderness*

Numbers 11

3/30/2025

**Lesson Review:** Last week, we looked at the Lord’s appearance in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and how His presence was impacted by the sin of the people. Although God had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ His promise to Israel, He was unwilling to dwell in the midst of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people. Despite their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ condition, the people did at least \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when they saw that the presence of the Lord was not going to be with them any longer in the wilderness. The Lord decided to manifest His presence in the tabernacle outside of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Israel. The people were allowed to go out of the camp and \_\_\_\_ God’s presence there. Unlike the people, Moses had a strong \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be and stay in the presence of the Lord. He was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to move forward unless the presence of the Lord went with him. Moses understood that God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was manifested through His presence being there with them. Even though Moses had been in the presence of God, he still desired to see \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord. The Lord heard Moses’ request, and He was willing to answer a part of his request. Moses could not see God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but the Lord was willing to pass by in front of Moses and give him a small \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of His glory. For today’s lesson, we are going to pick up in the book of Numbers. After spending roughly a year around Mount Sinai, it’s finally time for Israel to go on the move again. Unfortunately, it didn’t take long for the Israelites to complain again and bring about the anger of Moses and the Lord.

1. **MOSES WAS OVERWHELMED BY THE WEIGHT OF DEALING WITH A DISCONTENT PEOPLE.**
2. **Notice that Moses began to see the responsibility of leadership as a punishment instead of a privilege.** *Numbers 11:10 Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the Lord was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased. 11 And Moses said unto the Lord, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?* Moses had once embraced his leadership role as God’s chosen servant, but the continual complaining of the people caused him to view that responsibility in a different light. He spoke to God as though leadership were an affliction, even questioning why he had been given such a task. His words reveal a heart that was worn down and discouraged. Rather than feeling honored to lead, Moses felt overwhelmed and burdened. This can often happen in leadership. The joy in leading can quickly be replaced with a jaded view of our job. The reality is that leadership is work. It is a task given from the Lord.
3. **Notice that Moses’ view of his leadership role led him to a breaking point where he felt that he could no longer bear the burden of the people.** *Numbers 11:12 Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers? 14 I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me.* Moses expressed his frustration to God by using the imagery of a parent caring for a child. He asked if he had conceived or begotten this people, highlighting that he felt like he was being expected to act as a father to an entire nation. He was not only responsible for their direction but also for their provision, protection, and emotional needs. The burden of such a role was too much for him to carry alone. Moses’ comparison shows how deeply he felt the weight of leadership—it wasn’t just organizational; it was personal and parental. When we take too much responsibility upon ourselves, even out of a sincere heart, we can quickly find ourselves overwhelmed. God never intended for one person to carry what only He is able to bear.
4. **MOSES WAS VOCAL TO THE LORD ABOUT HIS FRUSTRATIONS AND DESIRE TO QUIT.**
5. **Notice that Moses was so frustrated that his solution for the situation was for God to kill him.** *Numbers 11:15 And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.* Moses was greatly frustrated. He asked God to take his life rather than continue bearing the burden of the people alone. His statement was not made in rebellion, but in brokenness. When he referred to his “wretchedness,” he was not speaking of sin, but of his personal misery and sense of utter failure. He felt he had reached the end of his strength and could not bear to watch himself fall apart under the pressure. Moses had come to a place where he believed he could not go on. We’ve all struggled with this to some degree.
6. **Notice that despite Moses’ foolish request, he was wise to bring his frustrations directly to the Lord.** *Numbers 11:11a And Moses said unto the Lord…* *Psalm 62:8: Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.* Moses poured out his heart before God, not holding back his fears, exhaustion, or even his request to die. While his words may have been emotionally driven and even irrational, he still brought them to the right place—before the Lord. Moses didn’t vent to Aaron, complain to the people, or withdraw in silence. He took his grief, confusion, and helplessness directly to God. This is a powerful reminder that God invites us to bring our cares and anxiety to Him. While Moses may have spoken out of weakness, his approach was rooted in faith. He still believed that only the Lord could help, even if he didn’t know how. As believers, we must learn that it’s far better to pour out our hearts to God than to withdraw.
7. **MOSES WAS MET WITH AN ANSWER FROM THE LORD, NOT HIS ANGER OR JUDGMENT.**
8. **Notice that God graciously provided Moses with support to help him deal with the difficult people.** *Numbers 11:16 And the Lord said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee. 10 Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the Lord was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.* This was not the first time that Moses had voiced his inadequacy to the Lord. When the Lord called him in the wilderness, Moses did not believe that he could lead the people on his own. The Lord was disappointed with Moses’ lack of faith, but He provided him with help from his brother Aaron. This time, we do not see any disappointment from the Lord. This is likely because the Lord knew just how difficult the people were to deal with. He had also been very angry with the people. We must remember that God knows the pain that we are going through. He has the answer to the problem. For Moses, the answer was found in the elders.
9. **Notice that God utilized His Holy Spirit to give the power and the comfort that was needed for the situation.** *Numbers 11:17 And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.* The same Spirit that was upon Moses was placed upon the elders so they could lead effectively. This was not a transfer that diminished Moses’ anointing, but a divine multiplication of spiritual power. God was showing that spiritual burdens require spiritual strength, and the work of leading His people must be done by the enabling of the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit rested on the elders, they prophesied, confirming that their authority and help came from the Lord, not from their own wisdom or talent. The Lord gives comfort to His children through the working of the Holy Spirit. Spirit-filling and leading is a necessity!
10. **MOSES NEEDED TO BE REMINDED OF GOD’S POWER AND FAITHFULNESS.**
11. **Notice that Moses’ frustration caused him to question the power and plan of God for the first time in the wilderness.** *Numbers 11:21 And Moses said, The people, among whom I am, are six hundred thousand footmen; and thou hast said, I will give them flesh, that they may eat a whole month. 22 Shall the flocks and the herds be slain for them, to suffice them? or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to suffice them?* For the first time since leading Israel out of Egypt, Moses questioned the plan of God. The Lord told him that He was going to give them so much meat that it would be coming out of their noses. He was going to give them so much that they would be sick of it. Moses had seen God do great things, but he couldn’t comprehend how God was going to perform this miracle. After all, they were in the desert. Where would they get the meat to satisfy all of the people? When we aren’t thinking clearly, we tend to revert back to a mindset of unbelief.
12. **Notice that Moses was the needed voice of faith to the people. He assured them that God had heard their request.** *Numbers 11:24 And Moses went out, and told the people the words of the Lord, and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and set them round about the tabernacle.* After Moses questioned how God would provide, the Lord reminded him of His limitless power: “Is the Lord’s hand waxed short?” It was a rhetorical question meant to reignite Moses’ faith. Once reassured, Moses went out and faithfully relayed God's message to the people. In doing so, he became the very voice of confidence they needed to hear. Despite his earlier doubts, Moses stood before the people and declared that God had heard them and that meat was coming. His leadership was restored by his renewed trust in the Lord. It’s important to note that Moses did not need full understanding in order to obey—he simply needed to trust in the mighty hand of the Lord God Almighty.