



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Numbers 13:1-15:41
- Romans 6
- Hebrews 3:16-4:13
- Isaiah 65:6-16

ADDING INSULT TO INJURY

- Two Worldviews
- Two Mindsets
- Making Matters Worse
- Two Reasons

Picture this in your mind. You've already made a bad choice that is sure to have dire consequences. It may even be such that everything about your bad decision is out in the open already, and you are certain of the negative ramifications. What now?

As a parent, I've always taught my children that it will go much better for them every time, if they quickly acknowledge their poor choice, admit what they did was wrong, and graciously accept the appropriate punishment. They were well-educated about how much more unpleasant it would be if they did or said anything to make a bad situation even worse. "Don't add insult to injury" is one way to describe my advice.

There is no doubt in my mind that this aspect of human nature, the sin nature, is one of the main themes that circles back

over and over again in God's Word. Paul said it like this; "I am carnal, sold under sin." But he also said, "How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" It's bad enough that we see this pattern so often: sin—warning—intercession—penalty—repentance—forgiveness. But it makes matters so much worse, exponentially worse, if we insert another step between penalty and repentance! I am confident you would like to know what that is, hopefully to avoid making that critical error yourself.

It starts with not liking the penalty. "News alert! Not liking it is what makes it a penalty." So, the human brain gets scheming. "I'll take matters into my own hands!" That's it! As bad as the ramifications for your sin might be, inserting that step, taking matters into your own hands, will make things exponentially worse!

We might say, "adding insult to injury" is a modern euphemism. A euphemism is a mild alternative, an understatement, or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt, when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing. Another euphemism I am sure you are familiar with is, "Two wrongs don't make a right!" When you take matters into your own hands that is exactly what you are doing; you are stacking a new wrong on top of an existing wrong! Now, let's dive a little deeper into what that looks like biblically.

God's words equates disobedience to unbelief, or a lack of faith. If I were to use the opposite of a euphemism, what is instead a dysphemism, and call a spade a spade, I'd rephrase "Don't add insult to injury," bluntly and with harsher terms like this; "Don't add rebellion to unbelief!" Taking matters into your own hands to avoid the consequences for your sin is really the quintessential example of "adding insult to injury or adding rebellion to unbelief." I have a secret for you that will change your life... "Don't do that!"

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

"Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, **you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in.**" Numbers 14:30 NKJV

"And they rose early in the morning and went up to the top of the mountain, saying, **"Here we are, and we will go up to the place which the Lord has promised, for we have sinned!"** And Moses said, "Now **why do you transgress the command of the Lord? For this will not succeed. Do not go up,** lest you be defeated by your enemies, for **the Lord is not among you.**" Numbers 14:40-42 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the

Lord, He also has rejected you from being king." 1 Samuel 15:23
NKJV

"What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?** Certainly not! **How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**" Romans 6:1-2 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This week's reading tells of how twelve men crossed into the Promised Land as spies for a 40 day reconnaissance mission, and unfortunately includes how ten of them exercised terrible judgment. It reports the tragic story of how these ten spies returned with a bad report and how that report inspired fear in the people and subsequently influenced them to rebel against Yahweh.
2. As a result, God turned the people back into the wilderness to wander for 40 years, one year for each day the spies were in the land. The entire generation of Moses would wander an additional thirty-nine years, as they had already been in the wilderness for one year. And, every adult twenty and over, except the two spies who refused to bring a bad report, would die in the wilderness before ever seeing the Land of Promise.

3. The final chapter of the portion reviews or introduces various laws.
4. If you wish to review the past two year's teaching on this portion see: [Life, Lies and Confused Spies](#) & [Self-Preservation](#)

Chapter 13

5. Spies Sent into Canaan:

- (a) Yahweh tells Moses to send one man from each tribe (12 men) to spy out the land of Canaan. He then names all 12 men. Of special interest are:
 - 1) Caleb from the tribe of Judah
 - 2) Hoshea (who Moses called Joshua) from the tribe of Ephraim

6. Here's the assignment (Be of good courage!):

- (a) Are the people strong or weak, few or many?
 - (b) Is the land good or bad, rich or poor?
 - (c) Are the cities like camps or strongholds?
 - (d) Are there forests or not?
 - (e) And...bring back some of the fruit of the land.
7. They entered the land and came to a place in which the descendants of Anak (giants) dwelled.
 8. One cluster of grapes was so large that it had to be carried by two men on a pole.
 9. **They returned after forty days with this information report:**

- (a) The land truly flows with milk and honey, and abundant fruit.
- (b) The people are strong.
- (c) The cities are fortified and very large.
- (d) These are the people who dwell in the land: descendants of Anak, plus the Amalekites, Hittites, Jebusites, Amorites, and Canaanites.

10. These are the two reports assessing that information:

- (a) A good report by Caleb:
 - 1) “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”
- (b) A bad report by the other ten men (except Joshua):
 - 1) “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.”
 - 2) “The land devours its inhabitants.”
 - 3) “The men are of great stature (giants—the descendants of Anak).”
 - 4) “We were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

Chapter 14

11. The Outcome of the Reports:

- (a) The people weep all night and then complain.
- (b) They refuse to enter Canaan.
- (c) “If only we had died in the land of Egypt!”

- (d) "If only we had died in this wilderness!"
- (e) "Why has Yahweh brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims?"
- (f) "Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"
- (g) "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."

12. Then Joshua and Caleb weighed in and give their assessment:

- (a) "The land is an exceedingly good land."
- (b) "If Yahweh delights in us (and He does!), then He will bring us into this land and give it to us."
- (c) "Do not rebel against the LORD."
- (d) "Do not fear the people of the land."
- (e) "Those people are our bread."
- (f) "Their protection has departed from them."
- (g) "The LORD is, instead, with us."

13. The people's choice:

- (a) We have decided to believe the bad report (from the 10 faithless spies).
- (b) Let's go ahead stone the two guys (faithful Joshua and Caleb), who brought the good report.

14. Yahweh is NOT happy!

- (a) "How long will these people reject Me?"
- (b) "How long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?"

- (c) "I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them."
- (d) "I will make of you (Moses) a nation greater and mightier than they."

15. Moses must step in and intercede for the people (again!):

- (a) "The Egyptians will hear what You did to them and inform the inhabitants of this land."
- (b) "They know that You are among these people, and You lead them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night."
- (c) "If You kill these people altogether, the nations which have heard of Your fame will just conclude that You were not able to bring this people into the land which You swore to give them (not capable of making good on Your promise)."
- (d) "I pray, let the power of my Lord be great, just as You have spoken...but also be patient and abundant in mercy, forgiving their iniquity and transgression!"
- (e) "I know there is a cost to pay, even for the children three and four generations later."
- (f) "But, please show mercy, just as You have forgiven them many times since they left Egypt."

16. Yahweh's Response:

- (a) "I have pardoned them, according to your word."

- (b) "However, after all these people have seen, and still put Me to the test ten times, and have not heeded My voice, there has to be some consequence."
- (c) "I won't kill them all right now, but they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers."
- (d) "Except My servant Caleb (and Joshua), because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully. He will go into the land, and his descendants shall inherit it."

17. Death Sentence for the Rebels:

- (a) "The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, from twenty years old and above."
- (b) Except for Caleb and Joshua.
- (c) "But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in to the land."
- (d) "According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year." (You will wander the Wilderness 39 more years!)
- (e) The men who gave the evil report that made the people complain died by the plague.
- (f) But, Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive, of the men who went to spy out the land.

18. A Futile Invasion Attempt:

- (a) The people mourned over the sentence and decide to just enter the land of their own free will!
- (b) Moses warns them that because Yahweh does not approve, it will not succeed and they will be defeated by their enemies.
 - 1) “You shall fall by the sword; because you have turned away from Yahweh.”
- (c) They go for it anyway and neither the ark of the covenant nor Moses join them. And, of course, they are driven back in great defeat! (See [Predictable Tides](#) for how the ark was always to go before them!)

Chapter 15

19. Laws of Grain and Drink Offerings:

- (a) The rules for grain and drink offerings are reviewed for when they come into the land (for burnt offerings and sacrifices, vows and freewill offerings, and for appointed feasts).
- (b) These laws apply to the native-born and the stranger alike—one ordinance (one law and one custom), for both, forever.

20. Laws Regarding Unintentional Sin:

- (a) If sin is unintentionally committed, without the knowledge of the congregation, once discovered, the whole congregation shall make the proper offering (as explained).
- (b) The priest shall make atonement for the whole congregation and it shall be forgiven, for it was unintentional.

- (c) Again, this one law applies to both the native-born and the stranger who dwells among them.

21. Laws Regarding Presumptuous Sin:

- (a) If the sin is intentional (done presumptuously), he shall be cut off from among his people, because he has despised the word of Yahweh and His commands.
- (b) Once again, this one law applies to both the native-born and the stranger who dwells among them.

22. Penalty for Violating the Sabbath:

- (a) "The person must surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp."

23. Tassels on Garments:

- (a) "Make tassels on the corners of your garments and put a blue thread in the tassels."
- (b) Why? "So, when you look upon them you will remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them."

TWO WORLDVIEWS

1. Belief and Unbelief

A. Two Perspectives: (Assignment, Choices & Consequences for those choices!)

(1) Spies Sent into Canaan

(a) Yahweh tells Moses to send one man from each tribe (12 men) to spy out the land of Canaan. He names all 12 men. (Numbers 13:1-16) Of special interest are:

1. Caleb from the tribe of Judah
2. Hoshea (who Moses called Joshua) from the tribe of Ephraim

(2) Assignment

(a) Here's the assignment. Be of good courage and go see what the land is like and report on these seven things! (Numbers 13:17-24):

1. Are the people strong or weak?
2. Are the people few or many?
3. Is the land good or bad?
4. Is the land rich or poor?
5. Are the cities like camps or strongholds?
6. Are there forests or not?
7. And...bring back some of the fruit of the land.

(3) The Forty Day Report

(a) They returned after forty days with this information report (Numbers 13:25-29):

1. The land truly flows with milk and honey, and abundant fruit. (Answers to #3 & #4)
2. The people are strong. (Answer to #1)
3. The cities are fortified and very large. (Answers to #2 & #5)
4. They cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole. They also brought some of the pomegranates and figs. (Answer to #7)
5. These are the people who dwell in the land: descendants of Anak, plus the Amalekites, Hittites, Jebusites, Amorites, and Canaanites. (Addressing #1 & #2)
6. No word on the forests!

(4) These are the two very different opinions about the information they gathered. It would seem that the two perspectives are affected by identity politics. How do they view God? And how do they view themselves?

(a) A good report by Caleb, and eventually Joshua (Numbers 13:30):

1. **“Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”** Numbers 13:30 NKJV
 - a) **“I can do all things** through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13 NKJV
- (b) A bad report by the other ten spies (Numbers 13:31-33):
 1. **“We are not able** to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.” Numbers 13:31 NKJV
 2. “The land devours its inhabitants.” Numbers 13:32 NKJV
 3. “The men are of great stature (giants—the descendants of Anak).” Numbers 13:32 NKJV
 4. **“We were like grasshoppers in our own sight,** and so we were in their sight.” Numbers 13:33 NKJV
 - a) *We see ourselves a certain way and, as a result, others see us the same way!
- (c) Grasshopper or Image of Christ?
 1. “Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord,** are **being transformed into the same image from glory to glory,** just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” II Corinthians 3:17-18 NKJV

- a) *If we looked into the mirror and saw Christ, then our enemies would look at us and see Christ!
 - b) **“I can do all things** through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13 NKJV
- (5) Whose report do you believe? *“Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”* Isaiah 53:1 NKJV
- (a) The Outcome of the Reports (Numbers 14:1-4):
1. The people weep all night and then complain.
 2. They refuse to enter Canaan.
 3. “If only we had died in the land of Egypt!” (v. 2)
 4. “If only we had died in this wilderness!” (v. 2)
 5. “Why has Yahweh brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims?” (v. 3)
 6. “Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” (v. 3)
 7. “Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.” (v. 4)
 - a) We see ourselves a certain way and, as a result, others see us the same way!
 - b) If we looked into the mirror and saw Christ, then our enemies would look at us and see Christ!

c) How we view ourselves dictates our attitudes, beliefs and actions.

(6) Whose report do you believe? *“Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”* Isaiah 53:1 NKJV

(a) Then Joshua and Caleb weigh in and give their assessment with seven highlights! (Numbers 14:5-9):

1. “The land is an exceedingly good land.” (v. 7)
2. “If Yahweh delights in us (and He does!), then He will bring us into this land and give it to us.” (v. 8)
3. “Do not rebel against the LORD.” (v. 9)
4. “Do not fear the people of the land.” (v. 9)
5. “Those people are our bread.” (v. 9)
6. “Their protection has departed from them.” (v. 9)
7. “The LORD is, instead, with us.” (v. 9)

a) We see ourselves a certain way and, as a result, others see us the same way!

b) If we looked into the mirror and saw Christ, then our enemies would look at us and see Christ!

c) How we view ourselves dictates our attitudes, beliefs and actions.

(7) We believe the bad report!

(a) The people’s choice (Numbers 14:10):

1. We have decided to believe the bad report (from the 10 faithless spies).
2. Let's go ahead stone the two guys (faithful Joshua and Caleb), who brought the good report.
 - a) We see ourselves a certain way and, as a result, others see us the same way!
 - b) If we looked into the mirror and saw Christ, then our enemies would look at us and see Christ!
 - c) How we view ourselves dictates our attitudes, beliefs and actions.

(8) Hammer Time!

(a) Yahweh is NOT happy (Numbers 14:11-12)!

1. "How long will these people reject Me?" (v. 11)
2. "How long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?" (v. 11)
3. "I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them." (v. 12)
4. "I will make of you (Moses) a nation greater and mightier than they." (v. 12)

(9) Intercession

- (a) Moses must step in and intercede for the people—again! You have forgiven them many times already

Yahweh; why not one more time God!?! (Numbers 14:13-19):

(b) His case:

1. “**The Egyptians will hear what You did** to them and inform the inhabitants of this land.” (vv. 13-14)
2. “**They know** that You are among these people, and **You lead them** in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night.” (v. 14)
3. “If You kill these people altogether, the nations which have heard of Your fame will just **conclude that You were not able** to bring this people into the land which You swore to give them [not capable of making good on Your promise].” (vv. 15-16)
4. “I pray, let the power of my Lord be great, just as You have spoken...but also be patient and abundant in mercy, forgiving their iniquity and transgression!” (vv. 17-18)
5. “I know there is a cost to pay, even for the children three and four generations later.” (v. 18) [also see Deuteronomy 5:8-10]
6. “But, please show mercy, just as You have forgiven them many times since they left Egypt.” (v. 19)

(10) Consequences: Please note DO NOT CROSS OVER!

- (a) Yahweh's Response: I forgive you. I will not wipe you out, but there will still be ramifications for your choice to believe the bad report (Numbers 14:20-25):
1. **"I have pardoned them**, according to your word." (v. 20)
 2. "However, after all these people have seen, and still put Me to the test ten times, and have not heeded My voice, **there has to be some consequence.**" (vv. 21-22)
 3. **"I won't kill them all right now**, but they certainly **shall not see the land** of which I swore to their fathers." (v. 23)
 4. **"Except My servant Caleb** (and Joshua), because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully. He will go into the land, and his descendants shall inherit it." (v. 24)
 5. "Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valley; tomorrow **turn and move out into the wilderness** by the Way of the Red Sea." Numbers 14:25 NKJV *[In other words, turn around and head back into the wilderness—DO NOT CROSS OVER!]*

B. Disobedience and Lack of Faith

- (1) Who Rebelled?

(a) Everyone who left Egypt rebelled. God was angry with all of them for their disobedience. He informs them that they will not enter the promised land because of their disobedience, and then we are clued into what precipitated the disobedience—a lack of faith!

1. **“For who, having heard, rebelled?** Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? **Now with whom was He angry forty years?** Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? **And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest,** but to those who **did not obey? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”** Hebrews 3:16-19 NKJV

(2) Therefore...

(a) Rest was always pointing toward the Messiah. They waited as the spies entered the land and came back with mixed reports. Unfortunately, the people, because they had too little faith, chose to go with the bad report. We see that they had the good news presented to them as it has been to us. The good news is the promise we have to enter rest in Y’shua. They had the good news that they could likely enter the rest in the Promised

Land. The entire plan was written from the beginning of time; don't stop short of entering!

1. "Therefore, since **a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.** For indeed **the gospel** was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard **did not profit them, not being mixed with faith** in those who heard it. For **we who have believed do enter that rest,** as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,' " **although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.**" Hebrews 4:1-3 NKJV

(b) Where was this rest first introduced to us? It's simple; we learned about God's rest in the creation account. And it should be clear that there remains something very important about the seventh day and the faith it demonstrates to take that day to rest. And notice that you don't rest **on the Sabbath**; you rest **in the Sabbath!** That is faith in God's sanctification! That is why the Sabbath was MADE FOR MAN!

1. For **He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day** in this way: "**And God rested on the seventh day from all His works**";" Hebrews 4:4 NKJV

2. **The Certain Place:** “And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and **He rested on the seventh day from all His work** which He had done. Then **God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested** from all His work which God had created and made.” Genesis 2:2-3 NKJV

3. “And He said to them, “**The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.** Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”” Mark 2:27-28 NKJV

(c) How did disobedience manifest? The people would not believe the good report. Instead they chose to go with the bad report. And, we know that even today, when we are offered the chance to “enter”, only some will accept. It was “today” when Israel had their first shot at entering; it was “today” when when David wrote about it in Psalm 95:8-11. It was “today” again when Hebrews was written in the first century. And it is “today” TODAY! *“Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.”*

1. “and again in this place: “**They shall not enter My rest.**” **Since therefore it remains that some must**

enter it, and those **to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience**, again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, **as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts."** For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. **There remains therefore a rest for the people of God."** Hebrews 4:5-9 NKJV

- a) This week's portion speaks of the lack of faith demonstrated when we won't rest on the Sabbath, but instead take matters into our own hands. The unwillingness to enter the Sabbath rest is the equivalent of death!
- b) **"Now while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day.** And those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses and Aaron, and to all the congregation. They put him under guard, because it had not been explained what should be done to him. Then the Lord said to Moses, **"The man must surely be put to death;** all the congregation shall stone him with stones

outside the camp.” So, as the Lord commanded Moses, all the congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him with stones, and he died.” Numbers 15:32-36 NKJV

- (d) It is key that you don't miss this directive in Hebrews. In Hebrews 4:4 is stated *“For **He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works.”** And then in verse 10, it identifies those who have entered His rest as doing so just like God did (on the seventh day). Why is this important? Because we obediently enter this rest by faith! And when we do not enter, it demonstrates both disobedience and a lack of faith. “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ...For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.” Exodus 20:8, 11 NKJV*

1. **“For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.”**
Hebrews 4:10 NKJV

- (e) Be diligent to enter into the sanctification. Don't demonstrate the same lack of faith as those in the

wilderness. This idea is so powerful because it will literally EXPOSE YOU! You cannot hide faithless disobedience for more than a week! When the Sabbath comes every seven days, you will either enter the rest or openly declare, "I don't trust God!" That is precisely what the 10 spies did and is exactly what the people bought into. "We don't trust God!" ***"We were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."*** (Numbers 13:33) And... ***"Why has Yahweh brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims?"*** (Numbers 14:3)

1. **"Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."** Hebrews 4:11-13 NKJV

Summary: TWO WORLDVIEWS

1. Belief and Unbelief

A. Two Perspectives: (Assignment, Choices & Consequences for those choices!)

(1) Spies Sent into Canaan

- (a) Yahweh tells Moses to send one man from each tribe (12 men) to spy out the land of Canaan. He names all 12 men. Of special interest are:

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2. Joshua from the tribe of Ephraim

(2) Assignment

- (a) Here's the assignment. Be of good courage and go see what the land is like and report on these seven things!

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2. Are the people few or many?
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7. And...bring back some of the fruit of the land.

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 5. These are the people who dwell in the land: descendants of Anak, plus the Amalekites, Hittites, Jebusites, Amorites, and Canaanites. (Addressing #1 & #2)
 6. No word on the forests!
- (4) These are the two very different opinions about the information they gathered. It would seem that the two perspectives are affected by identity politics. How do they view God? And how do they view themselves?
- (a) A good report by Caleb, and eventually Joshua.
 - (b) A bad report by the other ten spies.
 1. We were like grasshoppers in our own sight—We see ourselves a certain way and, as a result, others see us the same way!

(c) Grasshopper or Image of Christ?

1. *If we looked into the mirror and saw Christ, then our enemies would look at us and see Christ!

(5) Whose report do you believe?

(a) The Outcome of the Reports:

1. The people weep all night and then complain.
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- (a) Then Joshua and Caleb weigh in and give their assessment with seven highlights!:

1. "The land is an exceedingly good land."
2. "If Yahweh delights in us (and He does!), then He will bring us into this land and give it to us."
3. "Do not rebel against the LORD."
4. "Do not fear the people of the land."
5. "Those people are our bread."
6. "Their protection has departed from them."
7. "The LORD is, instead, with us."
 - a) We see ourselves a certain way and, as a result, others see us the same way!
 - b) If we looked into the mirror and saw Christ, then our enemies would look at us and see Christ!
 - c) How we view ourselves dictates our attitudes, beliefs and actions.

(7) We believe the bad report!

(a) The people's choice:

1. We have decided to believe the bad report (from the 10 faithless spies).
2. Let's go ahead stone the two guys (faithful Joshua and Caleb), who brought the good report.
 - a) We see ourselves a certain way and, as a result, others see us the same way!

- b) If we looked into the mirror and saw Christ, then our enemies would look at us and see Christ!
- c) How we view ourselves dictates our attitudes, beliefs and actions.

(8) Hammer Time!

(a) Yahweh is NOT happy!

1. "How long will these people reject Me?"
2. "How long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?"
3. "I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them."
4. "I will make of you (Moses) a nation greater and mightier than they."

(9) Intercession

(a) Moses must step in and intercede for the people—again! You have forgiven them many times already Yahweh; why not one more time God!?

(b) His case:

1. "The Egyptians will hear what You did."
2. "They know You lead them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night."
3. "If You kill these people altogether, the nations which have heard of Your fame will just conclude that You

were not not capable of making good on Your promise.”

4. “I pray, let the power of my Lord be great, just as You have spoken...but also be patient and abundant in mercy, forgiving their iniquity and transgression!”
5. “I know there is a cost to pay, even for the children three and four generations later.”
6. “But, please show mercy, just as You have forgiven them many times since they left Egypt.”

(10) Consequences: Please note DO NOT CROSS OVER!

(a) Yahweh’s Response: I forgive you. I will not wipe you out, but there will still be ramifications for your choice to believe the bad report:

1. “I have pardoned them.
2. “However, there has to be some consequence.”
3. “I won’t kill them all right now, but they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers.”
4. “Except My servant Caleb (and Joshua).”
5. “Now turn and move out into the wilderness [*In other words, turn around and head back into the wilderness—DO NOT CROSS OVER!*]

B. Disobedience and Lack of Faith

(1) Who Rebelled?

- (a) Everyone who left Egypt rebelled. God was angry with all of them for their disobedience. He informs them that they will not enter the promised land because of their disobedience, and then we are clued into what precipitated the disobedience—a lack of faith!

(2) Therefore...

- (a) Rest was always pointing toward the Messiah. Sure they waited, as the spies entered the land and came back with mixed reports. Unfortunately, the people, because they had too little faith, chose to go with the bad report. We see that they had the good news presented to them as it has been to us. The good news is the promise we have to enter rest in Y'shua. They had the good news that they could likely enter the rest in the Promised Land. The entire plan was written from the beginning of time; don't stop short of entering!
- (b) Where was this rest first introduced to us? It's simple; we learned about God's rest in the creation account. And it should be clear that there remains something very important about the seventh day and the faith it demonstrates to take that day to rest. And notice that you don't rest on the Sabbath; you rest in the Sabbath!

That is faith in God's sanctification! That is why the Sabbath was MADE FOR MAN!

(c) How did disobedience manifest? The people would not believe the good report. Instead they chose to go with the bad report. And, we know that even today, when we are offered the chance to "enter", only some will accept. It was "today" when Israel had their first shot at entering; it was "today" when when David wrote about it in Psalm 95:8-11. It was "today" again when Hebrews was written in the first century. And it is "today" TODAY! *"Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts."*

1. This week's portion speaks of the lack of faith demonstrated when we won't rest on the Sabbath, but instead take matters into our own hands. The unwillingness to enter the Sabbath rest is the equivalent of death!

(d) It is key that you don't miss this directive in Hebrews. In Hebrews 4:4 is stated *"For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all His works."* And then in verse 10, it identifies those who have entered His rest as doing so just like God did (on the seventh day). Why is

this important? Because we obediently enter this rest by faith! And when we do not enter, it demonstrates both disobedience and a lack of faith. *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ...For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”* Exodus 20:8, 11 NKJV

- (e) Be diligent to enter into the sanctification. Don't demonstrate the same lack of faith as those in the wilderness. This idea is so powerful because it will literally EXPOSE YOU! You cannot hide faithless disobedience for more than a week! When the Sabbath comes every seven days, you will either enter the rest or openly declare, "I don't trust God!" That is precisely what the 10 spies did and is exactly what the people bought into. *“We don't trust God!” “We were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”* (Numbers 13:33) And... *“Why has Yahweh brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims?”* (Numbers 14:3)

TWO MINDSETS

2. **Accept Things or Make Matters Worse**

A. **A quick review of what brought us to this point?**

- (1) It started with the bad report. (Numbers 13:31-33)
- (2) It led to a desire to return to Egypt. (Numbers 14:1-4)
- (3) Joshua and Caleb explained not to worry, we got this; but the rebellious people wanted to stone them! (Numbers 14:5-10)
- (4) God was ready to eliminate all of them, to strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them. (Numbers 14:11-12)
- (5) Then Moses interceded (Numbers 14:13-19)
- (6) God said okay, "I won't strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them...but there are consequences. They will not see the promised land..." All those presently 20 years old and over won't see the promised land (except Caleb and Joshua, and prophetically even Moses will not, but that's a story for a different time). They will wander for 39 more years, and I'm going to take out the 10 spies, who brought the evil report, by the plague. (Numbers 14:20-38)
 - (a) Details of the Death Sentence for the Rebels: (Numbers 14:20-38)

1. “The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, from twenty years old and above.” (vv. 29, 32, 35)
2. Except for Caleb and Joshua. (v. 30)
3. But your little ones (***The Next Generation**), whom you said would be victims, I will bring in to the land. (v. 31)
4. According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year. [You will wander the Wilderness 39 more years!] (vv. 33-34)
5. The men who gave the evil report who made the people complain died by the plague. (vv. 36-37)
6. Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive, of the men who went to spy out the land. (v. 38)

B. Prophetic Timeout

- (1) ***The Next Generation:** As we just witnessed in Moses’ intercession, the curse should pass to the third or fourth generation (Numbers 14:18 & Deuteronomy 5:8-10), but here in the wilderness the curse lasts only ONE generation. This is a prophetic hint about the final wilderness generation we see in Matthew 24.

(2) Prophetic Fulfillment of the **The Next Generation:**

(a) **The Exodus:** “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end [***Passover**] will come.” Matthew 24:14 NKJV

1) *See Passover teachings in the [Feast Section](#) on our website for why Passover is the End!

(b) **The Wilderness:** “Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation will by no means pass** *[only one generation will pass in the wilderness; all those under 20 years old will make it]* away till all these things take place.” Matthew 24:34 NKJV (See: Matthew 24:15-35)

1) Hint: “**Immediately after the tribulation [wilderness]** of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. **Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven**, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. **And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet**, and they will **gather together His elect [at the Lord’s second coming]** from the four winds, from

one end of heaven to the other." Matthew 24:29-31
NKJV

2) Be prepared for His second coming like Noah prepared an ark, as no one knows the day or the hour... Matthew 24:36-44

(c) **The Promises Land:** ""Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, **when he comes [the Lord's second coming]**, will find so doing." Matthew 24:45-46 NKJV

C. Two Options: how do you respond to Yahweh's correction?

(1) To add or not to add insult to injury...that is the question!

(a) Option One:

1. Obey and accept the consequences.

(b) Option Two:

1. Do things your own way to avoid the consequences.

Take matters into your own hands even though you know "two wrongs don't make a right!"

(2) What is your...

(a) ...approach, attitude, slant, perspective, point of view, viewpoint, outlook, line of attack, line of action; method, procedure, process, technique, MO, Modus

operandi (Latin), style, strategy, mode, tactic, path, system, means...when you are corrected?

(b) You might keep in mind the big picture (God's MO on correction)! God disciplines the ones He loves, the sons He loves!

1. **“And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.” If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.** Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. **Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of**

righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

Hebrews 12:5-11 NKJV

D. Making Matters Worse

(1) This is the central theme that inspired this ENTIRE MESSAGE!

(a) **Adding Insult to Injury:** Once you have been chastened by God—you must look past the immediate unpleasant consequences and search for the bigger picture. If you focus only on yourself, and attempt to usurp God’s decision and authority; you will only make matters worse for yourself! In other words, “Two wrongs don’t make a right!”

1. “Then Moses told **these words** to all the children of Israel, and the people mourned greatly. And they rose early in the morning and went up to the top of the mountain, saying, “**Here we are, and we will go up to the place which the Lord has promised, for we have sinned!**” And Moses said, “**Now why do you transgress the command of the Lord? For this will not succeed. Do not go up,** lest you be defeated by your enemies, for **the Lord is not among you.** For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and **you shall fall by the sword; because you have**

turned away from the Lord, the Lord will not be with you.” But **they presumed** to go up to the mountaintop. **Nevertheless, neither the ark of the covenant of the Lord nor Moses departed from the camp.** Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who dwelt in that mountain came down and attacked them, and drove them back as far as Hormah.”
Numbers 14:39-45 NKJV

(2) “These Words”

- (a) “These words” were the description of the consequences they were just informed about, for believing the bad report, complaining, and then refusing to enter the promised land...
1. The people mourned over the sentence and decide to just enter the land **of their own free will!**
 - a) “Here we are, and **we will go** up to the place which the Lord has promised [*by our own choice*], for we have sinned!” Numbers 14:40 NKJV
 2. Moses warns them that because Yahweh does not approve, it will not succeed and they will be defeated by their enemies. Neither the ark nor Moses will go with them!

- a) “You shall **fall by the sword**; because you have turned away from Yahweh.” Numbers 14:43 NKJV
 - b) “But **they presumed** to go up to the mountaintop. Nevertheless, **neither the ark of the covenant of the Lord nor Moses** departed from the camp.” Numbers 14:44 NKJV
3. Note: the consequences for presumptuous sin (in the very next chapter. Coincidence? I think not!) You will be “cut off” or in this particular case “cut up!”
- a) “**But the person who does anything presumptuously**, whether he is native-born or a stranger, **that one brings reproach on the Lord, and he shall be cut off [in this case CUT TO PIECES!]** from among his people. **Because he has despised the word of the Lord**, and has broken His commandment, that person shall be completely **cut off**; his guilt shall be upon him.’ ” Numbers 15:30-31 NKJV
 - b) Also notice the shift from their original sentiment about going in. They went from: “**We are not able to go up** against the people, for they are stronger than we.” (Numbers 13:31) To: “Here we are, and

we will go up to the place which the Lord has promised, for we have sinned!” (Numbers 14:40)

4. So, they go for it anyway and **neither the ark** of the covenant **nor Moses** join them. And, of course, many of them die and the rest are driven back in great defeat! (See [Predictable Tides](#) for how the ark was always to go before them!)
- (b) Don't go without Yahweh's leading or His ark! *“But they presumed to go up to the mountaintop. Nevertheless, **neither the ark of the covenant of the Lord nor Moses** departed from the camp.”* Numbers 14:44 NKJV

1. Follow Yahweh's leading:

- a) **“When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the Lord your God, and you will be saved from your enemies.”** Numbers 10:9 NKJV
- b) **“Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, after that the children of Israel would journey; and in the place where the cloud settled, there the children of Israel would pitch**

their tents. At the command of the Lord the children of Israel would **journey**, and **at the command of the Lord** they would **camp**; as long as the cloud stayed above the tabernacle they remained encamped.” Numbers 9:17-18 NKJV

- c) “And **the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light**, so as to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.” Exodus 13:21-22 NKJV
- d) “**Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up.** For the cloud of the Lord was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.” Exodus 40:36-38 NKJV

2. **Follow Yahweh’s Ark:**

- a) “So they departed from the mountain of the Lord on a journey of three days; **and the ark of the**

covenant of the Lord went before them for the three days' journey, to search out a resting place for them. **And the cloud of the Lord was above them by day when they went out from the camp."**

Numbers 10:33-34 NKJV

- b) "So it was, **whenever the ark set out**, that Moses said: "**Rise up, O Lord! Let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You.**" And when it rested, he said: "Return, O Lord, To the many thousands of Israel."" Numbers 10:35-36 NKJV (See [Predictable Tides](#) for how the ark was always to go before them!)

E. Grace is no Excuse!

(1) We know we are sinning....

- (a) Moses told them, "Don't go! God said no, and He is not with you on this; you will lose!" (Numbers 14:42) The people say, "Let's do it ANYWAY, even though we know it is a sin!" (Numbers 14:40)

1. "**Do not go up**, lest **you be defeated** by your enemies, for **the Lord is not among you.**" Numbers 14:42
NKJV
2. "And they rose early in the morning and went up to the top of the mountain, saying, "Here we are, and

we will go up to the place which the Lord has promised, **for we have sinned!**” Numbers 14:40 NKJV

(2) No one says it better than Paul!

(a) Doing what you know is wrong because your experience is that God’s grace through Christ (or in their case Moses) will cover you, is a BAD IDEA! Shouldn’t you actually do the opposite, if for no other reason, but the sheer appreciation for the intercession that was offered on your behalf! In other words, *“Don’t sin—because you are so grateful you are covered, rather than sin—because you are aware it will be covered!”*

1. “Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. **But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more**, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 5:20-21 NKJV

2. “What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not!** How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” Romans 6:1-2 NKJV

(b) Consider the “sin option” off the table, as if the option no longer exists. Christ has set you free as sons of God.

“True freedom is when there are no options; when God’s way is the ONLY way, you are truly free!”

1. **Sons are Free:** “Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.** And **a slave does not abide** in the house forever, but **a son abides** forever. Therefore **if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**” John 8:34-36 NKJV
2. **No longer slaves of sin:** “**knowing this**, that our **old man was crucified** with Him, that the body of **sin might be done away** with, that we should **no longer be slaves of sin.**” Romans 6:6 NKJV
3. **Freed from sin:** “For he who has died has been **freed from sin.**” Romans 6:7 NKJV
4. **Dead to sin:** “Likewise you also, **reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin**, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:11 NKJV
5. **Sin no longer rules your flesh:** “Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body**, that you should obey it in its lusts.” Romans 6:12 NKJV
6. **Sin no longer rules you:** “**For sin shall not have dominion over you**, for you are not under law but under grace.” Romans 6:14 NKJV

(c) Shall we therefore sin because we are covered? NO!

1. **Shall we sin? No!** “What then? **Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!**” Romans 6:15 NKJV

(d) You have been freed from Egypt; don't go back! Death lies behind you! Life lies ahead of you!

1. **Slave to sin or slave to righteousness?** “Do you not know that **to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves** whom you obey, whether of **sin leading to death**, or of **obedience leading to righteousness?**” Romans 6:16 NKJV

2. **Answer: free from sin, slave to righteousness!** “And having been **set free from sin**, you became slaves of righteousness.” Romans 6:18 NKJV

3. **Answer: free from sin, slave to God!** “But now having been **set free from sin**, and having become **slaves of God**, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:22-23 NKJV

F. Insult to Injury or Rebellion to Unbelief?

- (1) “Don't add insult to injury” seems mild when compared to a much harsher version: “Don't add rebellion to unbelief!”

(a) Rejecting God's word, ignoring His directives and commands, as the people did by first refusing to enter the promise land, is not simply benign disobedience. Going further to then take matters into their own hands is not some trivial mistake. It is outright rebellion. And as we learn from King Saul's life, rebellion is so egregious that God considers it a form of witchcraft. The first command in the Satanic Bible is "Do thine own will!" That is what Saul did, his own will; that is what Israel did as they rejected God's word!

1. **"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.** Because you have **rejected the word of the Lord**, He also has rejected you from being king.'" I Samuel 15:23 NKJV

(b) I suggest you read all of I Samuel 15 to appreciate the fullness of the story, but here are some excerpts, so you can see the insanity of what rebellion looks like. It simply comes down to not trusting the word of the Lord, not having the faith to obey Him, and the decision to take matters into your own hands. In the end it leads to outright rebellion. This goes beyond "adding insult to injury" and is better described as "adding rebellion to unbelief!"

1. {3} “Now go and attack Amalek, and **utterly destroy** all that they have, and **do not spare them**. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’ {9}”But **Saul and the people spared Agag and the best** of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and **all that was good**, and were **unwilling to utterly destroy** them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed. {13} Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed are you of the Lord! **I have performed the commandment of the Lord.**” {14} But Samuel said, “**What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen** which I hear?” {18} Now **the Lord sent you on a mission**, and said, ‘**Go, and utterly destroy** the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’ {19}**Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord?** Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the Lord?” {20} And Saul said to Samuel, “**But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission** on which the Lord sent me, and **brought back Agag king of Amalek**; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. {21} But **the**

people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things **which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord** your God in Gilgal.”” I Samuel 15:3, 9, 13-14, 18-21 NKJV

2. The Sin of Unbelief

- a) Utterly destroy everything; do not spare anything.
- b) Saul was unwilling to utterly destroy the people and spared Agag and the best of...the stuff!
- c) Samuel goes to Saul, and Saul says “I have performed the commandment of the Lord.”
- d) Samuel says, “What then is this bleating of the sheep and the lowing of the oxen I hear?”
- e) Samuel says, “The Lord sent you on a mission to utterly destroy...Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord?”
- f) Saul says, “**I have obeyed the voice of the Lord**, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; **I have utterly destroyed** the Amalekites.” (This is the height of rebellion—I have obeyed the Lord by disobeying the Lord!)

- g) But at least I did it for a good reason! The people took of the plunder, which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord!

Summary: TWO MINDSETS

2. Accept Things or Make Matters Worse

A. A quick review of what brought us to this point?

- (1) It started with the bad report.
- (2) It led to a desire to return to Egypt.
- (3) Joshua and Caleb explained not to worry, we got this; but the rebellious people wanted to stone them!
- (4) God was ready to eliminate all of them, to strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them.
- (5) Then Moses interceded.
- (6) God said okay, "I won't strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them...but there are consequences. They will not see the promised land..." All those presently 20 years old and over won't see the promised land (except Caleb and Joshua, and prophetically even Moses will not, but that's a story for a different time). They will wander for 39 more years, and I'm going to take out the 10 spies, who brought the evil report, by the plague. (Numbers 14:20-38)
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- (1) *The Next Generation: As we just witnessed in Moses' intercession, the curse should pass to the third or fourth generation (Numbers 14:18 & Deuteronomy 5:8-10), but here in the wilderness the curse lasts only ONE generation. This is a prophetic hint about the final wilderness generation we see in Matthew 24.
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- (a) *The Exodus*: the end [*Passover]
 - 1) *See Passover teachings in the [Feast Section](#) on our website for why Passover is the End!
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[only one generation will pass in the wilderness; all those under 20 years old will make it]
 - 1) Hint: “Immediately after the tribulation...
 [wilderness] Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect [at the Lord’s second coming].
 - 2) Be prepared for His second coming like Noah prepared an ark, as no one knows the day or the hour...
- (c) *The Promises Land*: the faithful and wise servant—ruler over his household—Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes [the Lord’s second coming].

C. Two Options: how do you respond to Yahweh’s correction?

- (1) To add or not to add insult to injury...that is the question!
 - (a) Option One:
 - 1. Obey and accept the consequences.
 - (b) Option Two:

1. Do things your own way to avoid the consequences.
Take matters into your own hands even though you know “two wrongs don’t make a right!”
- (2) What is your...
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 4. So, they go for it anyway and **neither the ark** of the covenant **nor Moses** join them. And, of course, many of them die and the rest are driven back in great

defeat! (See [Predictable Tides](#) for how the ark was always to go before them!)

- (b) Don't go without Yahweh's leading or His ark! *"But they presumed to go up to the mountaintop. Nevertheless, **neither the ark of the covenant of the Lord nor Moses** departed from the camp."* Numbers 14:44 NKJV

E. Grace is no Excuse!

(1) We know we are sinning....

- (a) Moses told them, "Don't go! God said no, and He is not with you on this; you will lose!" (Numbers 14:42) The people say, "Let's do it ANYWAY, even though we know it is a sin!" (Numbers 14:40)

(2) No one says it better than Paul!

- (a) Doing what you know is wrong because your experience is that God's grace through Christ (or in their case Moses) will cover you, is a BAD IDEA! Shouldn't you actually do the opposite, if for no other reason, but the sheer appreciation for the intercession that was offered on your behalf! In other words, *"Don't sin—because you are so grateful you are covered, rather than sin—because you are aware it will be covered!"*

(b) Consider the “sin option” off the table, as if the option no longer exists. Christ has set you free as sons of God. “True freedom is when there are no options; when God’s way is the ONLY way, you are truly free!”

1. Sons are Free:
2. No longer slaves of sin:
3. Freed from sin:
4. Dead to sin:
5. Sin no longer rules your flesh:
6. Sin no longer rules you:

(c) Shall we therefore sin because we are covered? NO!

1. Shall we sin? No!

(d) You have been freed from Egypt; don’t go back! Death lies behind you! Life lies ahead of you!

1. Slave to sin or slave to righteousness?
2. Answer: free from sin, slave to righteousness!
3. Answer: free from sin, slave to God!

F. Insult to Injury or Rebellion to Unbelief?

(1) “Don’t add insult to injury” seems mild when compared to a much harsher version: “Don’t add rebellion to unbelief!”

(a) Rejecting God’s word, ignoring His directives and commands, as the people did by first refusing to enter the promise land, is not simply benign disobedience.

Going further to then take matters into their own hands is not some trivial mistake. It is outright rebellion. And as we learn from King Saul's life, rebellion is so egregious that God considers it a form of witchcraft. The first command in the Satanic Bible is "Do thine own will!" That is what Saul did, his own will; that is what Israel did as they rejected God's word!

- (b) I suggest you read all of I Samuel 15 to appreciate the fullness of the story, but here are some excerpts, so you can see the insanity of what rebellion looks like. It simply comes down to not trusting the word of the Lord, not having the faith to obey Him, and the decision to take matters into your own hands. In the end it leads to outright rebellion. This goes beyond "adding insult to injury" and is better described as "adding rebellion to unbelief!"

1. The Sin of Unbelief

- a) Utterly destroy everything; do not spare anything.
- b) Saul was unwilling to utterly destroy the people and spared Agag and the best of...the stuff!
- c) Samuel goes to Saul, and Saul says "I have performed the commandment of the Lord."

- d) Samuel says, “What then is this bleating of the sheep and the lowing of the oxen I hear?”
- e) Samuel says, “The Lord sent you on a mission to utterly destroy...Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord?”
- f) Saul says, “**I have obeyed the voice of the Lord**, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; **I have utterly destroyed** the Amalekites.” (This is the height of rebellion—I have obeyed the Lord by disobeying the Lord!)
- g) But at least I did it for a good reason! The people took of the plunder, which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord!

TWO REASONS

3. **Be Holy and not Inclined to Harlotry**

A. What if they had looked at their tassels?

(1) Reminders!

- (a) When all is said and done...fear God and obey Him.

This sums up the entirety of man’s duty. And don’t think for a moment God will overlook a single act of disobedience, even if it is only a thought! Nothing is

hidden from His sight. And that is why God told the people to make tassels on the corners of their garments. When you are tempted to forget God's words, look upon them and remember His commandments. Run from the idolatry your carnal heart and eyes desire. In that moment be holy by **remembering AND obeying**.

1. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.**"
Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 NKJV
2. **For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**"
Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV
3. "Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to **make tassels on the corners of their garments** throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of

the corners. And you shall have the tassel, **that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the Lord and do them**, and that **you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined**, and that you **may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God**. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the Lord your God.” Numbers 15:37-41 NKJV

(2) Memorial Stones of their Eventual Crossing!

(a) What do these stones mean to you? These stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant! Yes, remember what it was like when we actually crossed over! It should have happened 39 years ago, but your fathers were rebellious!

1. “And it came to pass, **when all the people** *[The Next Generation, One Generation after the rebellion]* **had completely crossed over the Jordan**, that the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying: “Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, and command them, saying, ‘**Take for yourselves twelve stones** from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from

the place where the priests' feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.' " Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; and Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and **each one of you take up a stone** on his shoulder, **according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?'** Then you shall answer them that **the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant** of the Lord; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. **And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.**" Joshua 4:1-7 NKJV

- (3) The reminders continue for all of us!
 - (a) Peter, in his final words to his disciples, and to all of us, teaches us about the importance of reminders! He shared the most important discipleship details of his life in his final words. They were the tassels he was leaving

on our garments, that we might look upon them and remember! Don't add insult to injury. Don't add rebellion to unbelief. Be holy; fear God; obey God. It's your only job!

1. "For this reason **I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things**, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, **to stir you up by reminding you**, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. **Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things** after my decease." II Peter 1:12-15 NKJV

Summary: TWO REASONS

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A. What if they had looked at their tassels?

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people to make tassels on the corners of their garments. When you are tempted to forget God's words, look upon them and remember His commandments. Run from the idolatry your carnal heart and eyes desire. In that moment be holy by **remembering AND obeying**.

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QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Read Numbers 13

- A. What seven things are the spies ask to report? (See Numbers 13:17-24)
- B. What report do they make upon their return? (See Numbers 13:25-29)
- C. Differentiate the good report from the bad report using Numbers 13:30-33.

2. **We see ourselves a certain way and, as a result, others see us the same way!**

- A. Use Numbers 13:33 and II Corinthians 3:17-18 to contrast two very different perspectives.

3. **Unfortunately, the people settle on seeing themselves as per Numbers 13:33:**

- A. How do they respond according to Numbers 14:1-4?
- B. What does Joshua and Caleb offer as an alternative perspective? (See Numbers 14:5-9)

4. **In Numbers 14:10, the people dig their heels in to believe the negative report and desire to eliminate the messengers of the good report!**

- A. What is Yahweh ready to do to the people? (See Numbers 14:11-12)
- B. What does Moses do in response? (See Numbers 14:13-19)

C. How does God respond to Moses' intercession? (See Numbers 14:20-25)

5. Read Hebrews 3:16-19 through Hebrews 4:1-13:

A. Write a narrative that shows you understand the Hebrews connection to Numbers 13 and 14.

B. Explain what it means to rest just as God rested. (Hint: Hebrews 4:4, 10)

C. Explain why "Today" is talking about four different time periods simultaneously. (Hint: in the wilderness, at the time of King David, in the first century, and present day!)

6. Because of Moses' intercession, Yahweh relents, and instead describes the alternative penalty for their rebellion in Numbers 14:20-38:

A. Use Hebrews 12:5-11 to describe how God's chastening is a sign of love.

B. What do the people do after learning of the consequences for their lack of faith, and how are they warned? (See Numbers 14:39-45)

C. How can what they choose be considered presumptuous sin? (See: Numbers 14:40, 44; Numbers 15:30-31)

7. Again read Numbers 14:43-44.

A. What do we see in these verses that dooms the people's choice to failure? (Hint: Think God's leading and God's ark)

B. Use the following to support your answer: (See: Numbers 9:17-18; 10:9; 10:33-36; Exodus 13:21-22; 40:36-38)

8. The people knew God's instructions and knew they were sinning: (See Numbers 14:40-42)

A. Use Romans 5:20-21 and Romans 6:1-23 to write a letter to the people of Israel informing them about God's heart on such matters. (Also consider Numbers 14:13-19)

9. Read I Samuel 15.

A. How is Saul guilty of exactly what Israel did in Numbers 13 and 14?

B. Why is it more accurate to describe Saul's actions and excuses as "adding rebellion to unbelief" rather than "adding insult to injury"?

10. Because of how serious it is to disobey God, in Numbers 15:37-41, the people are given a physical reminder...

A. What is that reminder?

B. How can you be sure you will never get away with rebellion? (See: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Hebrews 4:12-13)

C. When the people eventually cross into the promised land 39 years later, what did the Lord tell Joshua to do as a reminder for the people of future generations? (See: Joshua 4:1-7)

D. How did Peter leave us "tassels on our garments"? (See II Peter 1:12-15)