

“Sin at Peor”

Numbers Chapter 25

Numbers 31:15-16 “And Moses said to them, “Have you spared all the women? Behold, these caused the sons of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, so the plague was among the congregation of the LORD.”

Num 25:1 1) Corporately Acceptable Sin vs 1-5

While Israel remained at Shittim, the people began to play the harlot with the daughters of Moab.

Num 25:2 For they invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.

Num 25:3 So Israel joined themselves to Baal of Peor, and the LORD was angry against Israel.

- The process of the failure:
 - The Moabites invited the sons of Israel
 - Israel accepted the invitation
 - The sons of Israel eat & bowed down to Moabite gods.
 - Israel joined (freely) to Baal
- “*Daughters of Moab*” and verse 6 someone had a “*Midianite*” woman. The Midianites were nomadic people and they were in large number in Moab.
- “*Baal*” was a Canaanite fertility god. Worship of Baal included sexual acts.
- This is the 1st time Israel joined themselves to Baal and it will be a perpetual problem through their history.
- The Lord was ANGRY.
 - The last two chapters God spoke of His love for Israel. Would not allow another to come against them. Yet here we see He is angry with Israel and has a strong discipline.
 - This is much like parenthood. A strong love and protection from others but being in a position of showing anger and disciplining.
- What money couldn’t buy; Israel was able to do themselves.

Num 25:4 The LORD said to Moses, “Take all the leaders of the people and execute them in broad daylight before the LORD, so that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel.”

- It is a leadership problem
 - Though it was the people (*some who were leaders and some were not*) that was engaging in this sin, the Lord sought to execute the Leaders.
 - This lets us know the leaders were also engaging, not speaking up against the sin or even justifying the sin
- Bring it into the light
 - They were to be executed in the broad daylight for all to see so there was no confusion for the role of the Leadership and what sin was punished.
 - Job 12:22 “*He reveals mysteries from the darkness And brings the deep darkness into light.*”
 - John 12:46 “*I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.*”
 - Acts 26:18 “*To open their eyes, [and] to turn [them] from darkness to light, and [from] the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*”
 - 1 John 2:9-11 “*The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*”

Num 25:5 So Moses said to the judges of Israel, “Each of you slay his men who have joined themselves to Baal of Peor.”

- Judges were summoned to execute these leaders.

Num 25:6 **2) A Individual's Flagrant Sin** vs 6-18

Verse 9 speaks of a plague that was affecting Israel. 24000 died.

1 Cor 10:6-8 "Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY." Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day."

24000 in Numbers 23000 in Corinthians (Corinthians says "in one day" . The numbers passage could be the total that died over more than one day)

In any event, A plague was killing people due to this immorality. Yet one man thumbed his nose at the cause and effect of sin.

Then behold, one of the sons of Israel came and brought to his relatives a Midianite woman, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the sons of Israel, while they were weeping at the doorway of the tent of meeting.

Num 25:7 When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he arose from the midst of the congregation and took a spear in his hand,

Num 25:8 and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and pierced both of them through, the man of Israel and the woman, through the body. So the plague on the sons of Israel was checked.

Num 25:9 Those who died by the plague were 24,000.

- Some believe that this man took a Midianite woman into not his own tent but into the tabernacle and was having intercourse with her in there.
- Phinehas saw this act of deliberate treason and took action. He took a spear and while they were in the sexual act He thrust a spear through them both.
- Some might think what can one man do in the tide of such wide spread wickedness.
 - THE PLAGUE WAS STOPPED. God will honor the passion his taking the responsibility to deal with sin.

Num 25:10 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Num 25:11 "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned away My wrath from the sons of Israel in that he was jealous with My jealousy among them, so that I did not destroy the sons of Israel in My jealousy.

Num 25:12 "Therefore say, 'Behold, I give him My covenant of peace;

Num 25:13 and it shall be for him and his descendants after him, a covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the sons of Israel."

- God honors Phinehas because
 - He was zealous (jealous) for God
 - Not with self generated zeal but with God's zeal.
 - The only way he could have gotten that was by knowing and being with God himself.
- Phinehas is rewarded with peace and a priesthood perpetual
 - 1 Chronicles 9:20 refers to Phinehas as a ruler over the gatekeepers.

Num 25:14 Now the name of the slain man of Israel who was slain with the Midianite woman, was Zimri the son of Salu, a leader of a father's household among the Simeonites.

Num 25:15 The name of the Midianite woman who was slain was Cozbi the daughter of Zur, who was head of the people of a father's household in Midian.

Num 25:16 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Num 25:17 "Be hostile to the Midianites and strike them;

Num 25:18 for they have been hostile to you with their tricks, with which they have deceived you in the affair of Peor and in the affair of Cozbi, the daughter of the leader of Midian, their sister who was slain on the day of the plague because of Peor."

- God instructs them to show no mercy to the Midianites. They were to attack them.

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