

**Their Conspiracy Is Exposed**

**Acts 5:7-9** (NASB)  
Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, **not knowing what had happened**. And Peter responded to her, 'Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?' And she said, 'Yes, that was the price.' Then Peter said to her, 'Why is it that you have **agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test**? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they shall carry you out as well.'

~ Peter speaks authoritatively for God  
~ See Heb. 3:8 for testing God (wilderness wanderers)

The Sharing of Goods: Acts 4:32-5:11 2

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**The Church Has a Strong Fear of God**

**Acts 5:10, 11** (NASB)  
And she fell immediately at his feet, and breathed her last; and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And **great fear came upon the whole church**, and upon all who heard of these things.

~ This too is exemplary judgment  
~ God does not change, so we can learn from this incident  
~ "all who heard" would include outsiders

The Sharing of Goods: Acts 4:32-5:11 3

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**The Danger of Testing God**

**Hebrews 3:7-9** (NASB)  
Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of **trial** in the wilderness, Where your fathers **tried** Me by **testing** Me, And saw My works for forty years."

~ This is from Psalm 95:8-10 based on Exodus 17:2, 7  
~ "tried" here is peirazo\_ as it is in Acts 5:9  
~ This term is used with prefix in Matthew 4:7  
~ This is a failure to believe that God is in our midst and so doubt His promises; like Israel (Num. 14:11, 22)

The Sharing of Goods: Acts 4:32-5:11 4

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### Israel Forgets God's Salvation and Rejects God's Promises

**Numbers 14:1-3 (NASB)**

Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. All the sons of Israel **grumbled** against Moses and Aaron; and the whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!"

"They had heard an unbelieving report from the spies

"Grumbled" is διαγογγύζω in LXX and is used in Luke 15:2 ; Exodus 16:2

Testing God: Numbers 14:1-24

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### They Question God's Purposes

**Numbers 14:3, 4 (NASB)**

"Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" So they said to one another, "**Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt.**"

"They question God's character and motives

"In unbelief they refuse to believe God's promises

"They forget God's saving acts

Testing God: Numbers 14:1-24

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### Godly Leadership Takes Action

**Numbers 14:5-7a (NASB)**

"Then Moses and Aaron **fell on their faces** in the presence of all the assembly of the congregation of the sons of Israel. Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, of those who had spied out the land, **tore their clothes**; and they spoke to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, saying, . . ."

"Moses and company believed God's promises

"Those who truly believed were aghast at the unbelief of the congregation

Testing God: Numbers 14:1-24

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**Godly Leadership Believes God's Promises**

**Numbers 14:7b-9 (NASB)**

"... The land which we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. **If the Lord is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land** and give it to us a land which flows with milk and honey. Only **do not rebel against the Lord**; and do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them."

Testing God: Numbers 14:1-24

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**They Want to Kill Their Leaders**

**Numbers 14:10-11 (NASB)**

But all the congregation said to **stone them with stones**. Then the glory of the Lord appeared in the tent of meeting to all the sons of Israel. The Lord said to Moses, "How long will this people spurn Me? And **how long will they not believe in Me**, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst?"

- " The people chose insurrection over faith
- " They had every reason to believe God's promises!
- " They will not enter because of unbelief (Heb. 3:19)

Testing God: Numbers 14:1-24

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**Moses Intercedes to Yahweh**

**Numbers 14:12-16**

- " God offers to start over with Moses
- " Moses reminds God of His mighty acts
- " The Egyptians have heard of God's mighty acts
- " The Canaanites will hear of God's mighty acts
- " The pagans will falsely think God lacks the power to keep His promises
- " Moses' intercession concerns the honor of God's name

Testing God: Numbers 14:1-24

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**Moses Intercedes Based on God’s Character**

**Numbers 14:17 - 19 (NASB)**

“But now, I pray, let the power of the Lord be great, just as You have declared, ‘**The Lord is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression**; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generations.’ **Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness**, just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.”

Testing God: Numbers 14:1-24 11

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**God Pardons the People and Promises to Display His Glory**

**Numbers 14:20-21 (NASB)**

So the Lord said, “I have pardoned them according to your word; but indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord.”

“ They will not be wiped out as a nation, but there will be consequences  
“ They will not enter but Joshua and Caleb with the younger generation will (Numbers 14:28-30)

Testing God: Numbers 14:1-24 12

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**They Had Foolishly Put God to the Test**

**Numbers 14:22 - 24 (NASB)**

“Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet **have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice**, shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it. But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it.”

Testing God: Numbers 14:1-24 13

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