



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of July 17, 2022

Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.

Sermon Text: Numbers 21:1-9

[1] When the Canaanite, the king of Arad, who lived in the Negeb, heard that Israel was coming by the way of Atharim, he fought against Israel, and took some of them captive. [2] And Israel vowed a vow to the LORD and said, "If you will indeed give this people into my hand, then I will devote their cities to destruction." [3] And the LORD heeded the voice of Israel and gave over the Canaanites, and they devoted them and their cities to destruction. So the name of the place was called Hormah. [4] From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. [5] And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." [6] Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. [7] And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. [8] And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." [9] So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Discussion Questions

1. In our passage this week we encounter Moses after he experienced the devastating loss of both his siblings, Miriam and Aaron, as well as the loss of his own ability to enter into the promised land because of his sin. In spite of this, Moses remained resolute in his devotion to God. Why do you think Moses could respond this way, rather than become bitter? How can you ensure that your response to trials and suffering is similar to Moses'?
2. After God delivers the people from the Canaanite king, the people begin to complain and grumble to God about the lack of food and water. What does this tell you about the condition of the human heart...in other words, what was Israel's heart problem?

3. How and why does discontentment with our circumstances in life reveal a discontentment with God Himself? Why do you think we can become discontent with God in spite of His love and provision for us?
4. What did the Israelites need to do to be saved from the judgment of God? What do we need to do today to be saved from that same judgment?
5. In our sermon we heard that “*the Christian life is one that is continuously repenting*” and that “*sincere repentance is continual*” and “*repentance is a grace of a lifetime*”. How does looking to Jesus and remembering all that He did for us on the cross free us from discontentment and a grumbling spirit?