

Walk and Talk in the Spirit

Shalom,

Our study in the Torah this week in **Numbers 19:1–22:1, called Chukat or “Decrees,”** contains a warning about the grave nature of unbelief and the forty years wandering in the wilderness. It relates the death of Miriam and Aaron, as well as the event that kept Moses from entering the promised land when he struck the rock that God provided to bring water to His people and failed to value and respect the holiness of God in his disobedience.

*But Adonai said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust in Me so as **to esteem Me as holy in the eyes of Bnei-Yisrael,** therefore you will not bring this assembly into the land that I have given to them.” (Numbers 20:12 TLV)*

Certainly, this **must have been one of the greatest regrets in Moses’ life.** Just think, He had been leading the Children of Israel for forty years and had been used mightily in word and deed. He had been in direct contact with God, heard His voice, and even seen a part of His form. He had come to a place of relating to God with amazing revelation and clarity, and yet, in a moment of frustration with circumstances and the grumbling of the people, he allowed his flesh to reign and control his actions in a way that disqualified him from leading the people to their destination into the promised Land of Israel.

It would be easy, thinking naturally, to excuse this lapse, but the One he was representing, and the One Who Moses foreshadowed, was none other than Yeshua the Messiah, and there could be no such lapse when it came to His life and ministry. The people of Israel needed to believe that Moses would faithfully and accurately convey God’s Word to them, but Moses spoke only his own mind and words.

*Also, Moshe was faithful in all God's house, as a servant giving witness to things God would divulge later. But the Messiah, as Son, was faithful over God's house. And **we are that house of His, provided we hold firmly to the courage and confidence inspired by what we hope for.** (Hebrews 3:5-6 CJB)*

Moses was not perfect, but if he had simply obeyed the instruction given by God and followed His direction to speak to the rock, he would never have disqualified himself from leading the children of Israel into the Land of Promise. In our natural thinking, **we are quick to excuse our momentary lapses** when we walk in compromise instead of maintaining simple obedience to the direction of God. We often depend on mercy when we miss it and fail to learn when we could be walking in faith and following God

implicitly. We surmise that since we are forgiven, we will not lose anything if we walk, from time to time, according to the lusts of the flesh, thinking that, when it's convenient, we can repent without consequence. Certainly, we can turn around and come back to a place of obedience, but as in the case of Moses missing entry to the promised land, **there is a cost for walking in the flesh.**

Let's recognize that God has empowered us to trust Him and enabled us to choose to walk in His Spirit. Walking, or living, in the flesh shortens lives and robs the body of Messiah of your gifts and your anointed ministry in the congregation.

Walking in the Spirit is the path of the abundant life Yeshua gave to us and, as a great bonus, when you walk in the Spirit you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. We can do all things through the Messiah Who strengthens us. Let's esteem what God esteems, value what He values, and honor Him in all we do.

But I say, walk by the Ruach, and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh.

(Galatians 5:16 TLV)

Hearing and doing,
Terry

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