

When Mission Drift Becomes Destruction: Lessons from Meribah in Numbers 20:1-13

What happens when God's servants cave to the pressures of frustration and pride?

When God's servants cave to the pressures of frustration and pride, they run the risk of...

- I. Allowing the nostalgia for the past and challenges of the present to replace God's hope for the future: Why is this happening to me? - Frustration (Num. 20:1-9).
 - a. Failure to adapt to a changing context: Defeating despair and fear of innovation – the false illusion of complacency in Egypt (vv. 2-5).
 - b. Clinging to methods above mission: Traditionalism (Tradition is the living faith of dead believers; traditionalism is the dead faith of living believers.) vv. 5-9.
- II. Exchanging God's glory for personal platform: Shall WE? Irreversible consequences of self-glorification - Pride (Num. 20:10-13).
 - a. Replacing God's presence with personality performance: When our **WE** excludes **HIM** (v. 10).
 - b. The danger: We can still produce results but miss God's reward (v. 11).
 - c. What does God want? – Holiness to the Lord (vv. 12-13).

Two big lessons to keep us committed to God's glory...

- 1. Don't let your nostalgia for the past or the challenges in the present rob you of God's hope for his glorious future.**
- 2. Don't be fooled by the false promises of self-glorification; God honors those who honor him, but those who despise him will be disdained.**