

In the Desert but Not Deserted

Part 8

1 Corinthians 10:10; Numbers 16

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TWO KEY PATTERNS AND A QUESTION

The Pattern of Rebellion:

- A desire for significance and an unstable environment led useful men to become rebels.
 - Became prominent (Numbers 16:2, 3)
 - Flattered the people (v. 3)
 - Questioned God's leaders (v. 3)
 - Arched their back at accountability (vv. 12-13)
 - Played the martyr card (v. 14)
 - Wanted to go back to better days (v. 14)
- Implication: Under our leadership, Israel's trials would have been avoided.

The Pattern of Consequences

- Starts by trying to blame consequences on others
 - God removed them
 - A faction of their followers continued headstrong to their grave (v. 35)
 - The confused in the congregation murmured against God (v. 41)
 - Their decision impacted generations!
- Rebellion is often born from consequences and magnifies consequences by trying to avoid consequences.
 - The Question: What would stop bad pastors from using this passage to “keep people in line?”
 - Unity from godly elders and obedience to God’s Word are going to lead to honest leadership.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it hard to follow leaders?
2. Based on this passage, how would you encourage someone struggling with authority?
3. What would Christ have you focus on in this season – especially when things aren’t going the way you want them to go?