

The memorial of God's boundaries.

Numbers 16:39 – 40

Intro: If there is one thing among many that as the Redeemed of the Lord that we need to learn, it is boundaries. God establishes boundaries for divine purposes and it isn't always something we need to understand as to the reason other than the fact it is what God wants. He is God, He is sovereign and He can do as He pleases without our approval. Under the Old Testament, God separated the Levites from the other Tribes and out of the Levites, God chose the family of Arron to be the head of the priesthood. Certainly not because they were perfect, but because He is God! He can do as He pleases.

In our text, we have arrived at the end of a contest, or if you prefer, a challenge brought by the jealousy of two families among the Levites, Korah and Dothan.

And as we study this chapter, we will hopefully gain some important insight into the sovereignty of God.

I. The Rebellion – Numbers 16:1 – 3.

A. This historical record reveals the _____ consequences when we choose to rebel against God.

1. We know from the book of Exodus, that God _____ Moses' to lead God's people.
(Exodus 3:10 - 15 and Exodus 7:1 – 3)
2. We know the historical record and how that all played out.
3. We know that God miraculously parted the Red Sea and brought forth water from a rock.
4. As time goes by and they are still making their long journey to the promised Land, the murmuring and complaining has become a continual _____ in Moses' side and God is none too pleased with the _____ of the Hebrews.
5. Korah was Moses' cousin and he gets the bright idea that he can do a _____ job leading the Hebrew people and he convinces another 250 princes to join him in his attempted _____. **Numbers 16:1 – 3.**
6. One can hear the arrogance, envy and narcissism in Korah's voice, the problem is his _____ to accept the divine wisdom and sovereignty of God in choosing whom He will as He pleases. Korah's rebellion as the other 250, was a rebellion against _____.

7. The challenge is on! Moses' did not ask or seek the task and responsibility of leadership. Such a position is never an easy position and one is bound to take a lot of _____ from others who are convinced they can do a better job, **Numbers 16:4 – 11**.
 8. The consequences of the rebellion was both _____ and _____, **Numbers 16:30 – 35**.
 9. You would just think, would you not, that after this the people that day would have _____ an important lesson about God's sovereignty, let alone about challenging God and His appointed authority. God _____ Moses and Arron that day. **Numbers 16:41 – 45**. God is ready to start all over with just Moses and Arron!
 10. Moses showed his true colors and _____ in response – **Numbers 16:46 – 50**.
- B. Now the broad plates – **Number 16:36 – 40**. They were to be for a _____.
1. Through their whole fiasco 14,700 Israelites died over an issue that had no business becoming an issue – **Numbers 16:49** in case we missed it.
 2. Those censors were to be a sign, **verse 38**, to the children of Israel, every time they brought an offering to be placed upon the brazen altar they would _____ the broad plates and be reminded that no stranger, no one whom God has not called or chosen is to take it upon themselves to intrude where they have no business being. (Boundaries)
 4. Hence it was to be a memorial, a _____, **Numbers 16:40**.
 5. King Saul paid a high price and he knew what he had was not lawful – **I Samuel 13:9 – 14**.
- C. So what is our take away from all this?
1. That God wants to keep that which is secular _____ from that which is spiritual **(II Corinthians 6:14 – 18)**
 2. This is not to say we can have two aspects to our life, one for the secular and the other spiritual, our _____ or way of life as the Redeemed of the Lord is to walk in that, the way of our life is to be lived in the Spirit – **Galatians 5:16**. (in surrender)
 3. The idea put forth by John the Baptist was that his flesh should decrease in its influence on him while the spirit _____ in its influence on and in our life. **(John 3:30 - "He must increase, but I must decrease.")**
 4. It is setting biblical _____ that we refuse to cross and our daily Scripture reading is a reminder of those boundaries. The keeping apart of the secular from the spiritual.