

Complaining

By David Maxson

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." (Numbers 21:5)

What was the number one sin of Israel in the wilderness? Complaining!

The people complained as soon as they crossed the Red Sea all the way till this story which is near the end of their pilgrimage. There are at least ten unique stories during Israel's wilderness days where we find the people complaining against God and/or Moses (Ex 16:2; 17:2; 32:1; Num 11:1; 14:2; 16:3 17:6, 28; 20:2; 21:5).

Grumbling is a problem. None of us is above the temptation to murmur or complain. We need to learn from the book of Numbers that this is a serious issue with God. He never took grumbling lightly. He sent fire to consume some, swallowed up others with the earth, and sent fiery serpents among the people, all because of complaining!

What lies at the heart of a complaining spirit?

1. A lack of faith. Israel usually complained because they failed to see God's ability to provide for them.

2. A selfish heart. This is seen in the rebellion of Korah. He and his family were jealous of the position God had given Moses.

How do you remedy a complaining spirit?

1. Remind yourself that God is in control. Your life may look like a wilderness with no food or water in sight, but God has not abandoned you. He will guide you home.

2. Give thanks. Instead of grumbling about what you don't have, turn your attention to what God has given you.

Father, forgive us of our ingratitude and lack of faith. Cultivate in us a heart of thankfulness and trust in your ability to provide.



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Sunday 5:00 PM Song leading class in college room	Sunday 5:15 PM Kid's Class in Auditorium	Sunday Evening College Devo at the Pender's with Heath Donahue teaching!	Tuesday 8:00 PM Truth-seekers Campus Study in Room 2310 in	Saturday 6-8 PM 1st-5th grade 6-8 p.m. at Hall's house	Saturday 6:30-8:30 PM 6th-12th grade 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Rachel Bobo's
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Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Terri Sams (Erica's friend)
Terri Moore (Joey's aunt)	Artina Hunt (Esther's friend's sister)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland and Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives)
Ricky Tucker (Tyler's cousin)	Ermogene Laxson (Sara Lail's grandmother)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Bernice Martin (Will Harris' great-grandmother)	Brian Myers (Kimberlee's cousin)	Eva Jean Cavender (Matt's grandmother)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Howard Vaughan (Mary Ann's Granddad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Ben Raine (baby of Rachel Hobgood's friend)

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- 3-Jessica Shaver
- 3-Cameron Abernathy
- 4-Julie Henriquez
- 5-Tate Pender
- 5-Caleb Hodges
- 8-Laura Humphrey
- 8-Hannah Morris
- 9-Brooke Perkins
- 12-Becky Daniels
- 12-Austin Adams
- 14-Jesse Roberts
- 16-Carla Luther
- 16-Carson Fowler
- 17-Cal Sandlin
- 18-Spencer Sullivan
- 18-Taylor Godwin
- 18-Joel Black
- 20-April Jerkins
- 20-RJ Martin
- 23-Anna Miller
- 24-Bob Simpson
- 27-Bree Robinson
- 28-Johnathan Hand

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lisa Carter got good news last week from her scan! She will continue to receive chemo treatments.
- ☒ - Our VBS will be June 6-9, on the "journeys of Paul."
- ☒ - Please remember John Burns and his family in the recent loss of his mother, Joyce.
- ☒ - Preston Loggins broke his wrist this week and is recovering in a cast.
- ☒ - Jamin Hymel (Chad's son) had surgery this week to put in shunt.
- ☒ - Tyler Tucker's mom, Theresa, will have knee replacement surgery on Tuesday.
- ☒ - Please pray for Toni Herd's sister, Carol Dickerson, who has cirrhosis of the liver.
- ☒ - Prayers have been answered on behalf of Terri Sams (Erica's friend) who is now in remission!
- ☒ - The flower fund is depleted, please see Mary Ann Roberts to contribute.
- ☒ - We will have a work day on Saturday, April 23rd, 8-12.
- ☒ - Audio Cd's are in the foyer after each service on Sunday. All audio is immediately uploaded to www.auchurch.com

The Auburn Beacon



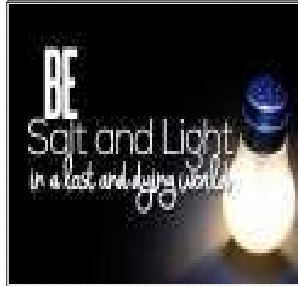
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

Volume 7, Issue 31

April 17, 2016

The Cost of Influence and Reputation

By Bill Hall



Thoughts to Ponder

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold. (Proverbs 22:1)

There are people in this world who are possessed with natural ability to lead and command respect of others. Call it charm, charisma, magnetism, or whatever; such people wield a powerful influence on those who look up to them as the embodiment of all they would like to become themselves. Peter apparently possessed such qualities among the apostles. There were David, Deborah, Nehemiah, and others. We have known such people in our day and have been influenced by them. Each reader can probably think of some "hero" of faith that he or she has looked up to through the years.

The opportunities for good that such people possess are tremendous, but so are the responsibilities. It is true that sin is sin, whoever commits it - that sin will separate one person from God just as quickly as it will another. But the adverse consequences of one's sins increase dramatically with the increase of the influence and reputation he enjoys among others.

Each reader is likely somebody's hero. Other readers are men and women of widespread influence. Let each one, when he is tempted, and before he yields, look ahead to the tears and hurt and disillusionment that he is about to bring to those who look up to him.

The confidence of others is a trust that must be carefully protected. Once that trust is in place, the person to whom it is committed has responsibilities that others of more normal influence and reputation do not have. And the more people involved in the trust, the greater the responsibility.

Those of reputation must be prepared for greater public scandal when they sin. Nathan told David that because of his adultery he had "given great occasion to the

(Continued on page 2)

Elders
Walker Davis (334) 703-0050
Larry Rouse (334) 734-2133

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday
Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM
E-Mail:
larryrouse@aubeacon.com

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Evangelist and Editor

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(Continued from page 1)

enemies of the Lord to blaspheme” (2 Samuel 12:14). Others had committed adultery in Israel, and their adultery had gone unnoticed by the enemies of God. But this was David! It was inevitable that the sin of this one man of influence and reputation would result in greater scandal than the sins of a multitude of people of lesser influence and reputation.

Those of reputation must be prepared for sterner rebuke when they sin than those of lesser reputation. Paul speaks of withstanding Peter “to his face” when Peter withdrew from eating with the Gentiles (Galatians 2:11-13). Paul’s rebuke of Peter was “before them all”. Peter was hardly the first Jewish Christian to refuse to eat with Gentile Christians, but Paul obviously recognized the seriousness of Peter’s actions because of his greater reputation and influence. Others were following his lead on this occasion, including Barnabas. Peter could not enjoy the luxury of a private meeting with Paul; Peter had to face the sting of immediate and open rebuke. Peter had betrayed a trust. Nothing less than open rebuke could counteract the harm that was resulting. Sterner rebuke is simply a cost – an inevitable cost – of influence and reputation.

Those of reputation must live more cautiously than others if they would maintain their influence and good name. Every Christian is warned not to place a stumbling block in his brother’s way (Romans 14:13; 1 Corinthians 8:9), but one who is known and admired by thousands of brethren in many places obviously will have to be more cautious than one who is known and admired by only a few brethren locally. Paul would have to give up far more to be “all things to all men” than would some Christian who had never been outside his

home community. That’s just the cost of influence and reputation. If one is not willing to pay that cost, if he is determined to be unbending in his conduct “no matter what others might think”, he needs to come to a greater appreciation of the value of a good name (Proverbs 22:1).

Those of reputation must be especially careful to build upon Jesus Christ, the true foundation, rather than upon themselves. The words, “For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord,” must become their motto (2 Corinthians 4:5). Those who place their loyalty in men of name and reputation

are in error. Their faith is not what it ought to be. But those who deliberately use charisma and flattery to attract a following are also in error (1 Thessalonians 2:1-13). The more natural charisma one is blessed with, the more cautious he must be.

When “Shoeless” Joe Jackson, a star Chicago White Sox outfielder, was involved in the “Black Sox” scandal of the 1920’s and was on his way to trial, a small boy, hurt, disappointed, with tears in his eyes, was heard to cry, “Say it ain’t so, Joe; say it ain’t so.”

Each reader is likely somebody’s hero. Other readers are men and women of widespread influence. Let each one, when he is tempted, and before he yields, look ahead to the tears and hurt and disillusionment that he is about to bring to those who look up to him. Let him hear their potential cries of “Say it ain’t so, Joe” and, motivated by their confidence and his own love for the Lord, let him “resist the devil”. If he betrays the trust that has been committed to him, he can be saved eternally through repentance and forgiveness, but he likely will never recover the confidence he has lost. Right or wrong, that’s reality. It is the cost – the inevitable cost - of influence and reputation.



The Destructiveness of Alcohol

By Ryan Hasty

Prov 23:29-35 – “Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long over wine, those who go to taste mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent and stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things and your mind will utter perverse things. And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, or like one who lies down on the top of a mast. ‘They struck me, but I did not become ill; they beat me, but I did not know it. When shall I awake? I will seek another drink.’”

Though the destructiveness of drinking alcohol goes back thousands of years, the horrible affects can still be seen throughout our society:

- 1) The CDC (Center for Disease Control) reports that ~88,000 per year die from alcohol-related causes.
- 2) There are ~17.6 million alcoholics in the USA. In 2006, alcohol misuse problems cost the USA \$223.5 billion.
- 3) Alcohol strains family finances, employee efficiency at the workplace, and is the #1 cause of child and spousal abuse.
- 4) The CDC reports that 1 in 4 college students suffer academic consequences from drinking alcohol. Many of these students will flunk out of school.
- 5) Alcohol encourages sexual permissiveness due to a lack of self-control. 55% of sexual assault victims have been drinking at the time of the assault as well as 97% of sexual assault

This alone should cause every serious Christian whose desire is to be “blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world” (Phil 2:14-15) to avoid the recreational and social consumption of distilled alcohol.

perpetrators.
6) Alcohol leads to mental problems, health problems of the heart and liver, and ultimately will lead to the death of many.
7) Over 55% of highway deaths are related to alcohol. Many victims are killed or maimed for life.

Despite these statistics, and more, advertisers will spend \$600 million this very year

telling you why you should drink. Their ads will be filled with carousing, revelry, and scantily clad women suggesting that the consumption of alcohol opens the door to the good life. Clever slogans are used – “Bring on the night, get some cold refreshment, head for the mountains, it doesn’t get any better than this!” In other words, the people who make the product, and therefore know it better than anyone else, purposefully market it as a stepping stone to the lust of the flesh (Gal 5:19-21) of which the bible makes clear will keep us out of heaven.

This alone should cause every serious Christian whose desire is to be “blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world” (Phil 2:14a-15) to avoid the recreational and social consumption of distilled alcohol. No beverage that the bible says mocks, leads to poverty, woes, sorrows, contentions, babblings, worries without cause, impairs judgment, inflames passions, and enslaves should have a place in the life of a people striving to “cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the spirit of God.” (2 Cor 7:1).



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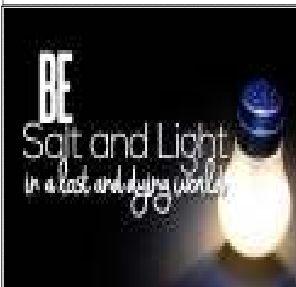
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larryrouse@aubeacon.com

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