

“Lessons From the Rebellion of Korah”

Num. 16

Open: Story

- Korah became **proud**. **Num. 16:1-14**
 - Sought **position**. **vs. 1-7** – *“Korah & Moses were cousins and Korah, a son of Levi, was jealous Aaron was chosen as high priest. Korah chose to use his influence and money to correct the problem.”*
 - Sought **power**. **vs. 8-11**
 - Sought **possession**. **vs. 12-14**
- Korah forgot his **purpose**. **vs. 9**
 - Misunderstood his **place**. **vs. 10**
 - Developed a **problem** with authority. **vs. 13**
- Korah was **punished**. **Num. 16:28-35**
 - Found himself separated from the **presence** of Godly leadership. **vs. 15**
 - Found himself subjected to the penalty of rebellion and **power** of God. **vs. 20-21**
 - Found himself being swallowed into a **pit**. **vs. 28-35; 28-30** (*Ps. 57:6 “They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah.”*)
- Korah’s attitude of rebellion **penetrated** the hearts of those around him. **Num. 16:19-27; 41-50**
 - Because of their carnality, the people were **persuaded** to follow Korah; but because of Moses’ warning those who separated were spared. **vs.19, 22-27**
 - Because of their carnality, the people blamed Moses and Aaron for the death of Korah. This brought onto the people a great **plague** that was only stayed because of Aaron’s compassion for the people. **vs. 41-50**
 - 14,700 people die as a result of this plague

The Corruption = vs. 1-5

The Challenge = vs. 6-11

The Consequence = vs. 18-35

The Continuance of Pride = vs. 41-50

I. Guard yourself from **pride**. **Num. 16:3**

- **Ps. 75:4-7** *“I said unto the fools, Deal not foolishly: and to the wicked, Lift not up the horn: [5] Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck. [6] For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. [7] But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.”*
- A. Pride **prevents** people from seeking God. **Ps. 10:4** *“The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.”*
- B. Pride is the chain that keeps **people** bound in wickedness. **Ps. 73:6** *“Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.”*
- C. Pride is a **precursor** to destruction.
 - i. **Prov. 16:18** *“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”*
 - ii. **Jer. 50:32** *“And the most proud shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up: and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it shall devour all round about him.”*
- D. Pride **pushes** people away from God (**vs.19-21**). **James 4:6** *“But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”*

II. Don't forget your purpose.

- **I Cor. 12:12-14** *“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. [13] For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. [14] For the body is not one member, but many.”*
- A. We are on the same **team**. **Eph. 6:12a** *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood...”*
- B. We each have a unique **purpose** on the team. **ILL:** *The body's members each perform unique tasks.*
- C. The team is **incomplete** without any one of its members. **ILL:** *The body does not function 100% if it has missing or malfunctioning members.*
- D. We are not to be **jealous** of other members, we need to recognize that the team will **fail** if I do not do my best at the tasks I've been given to accomplish. **I Cor. 12:25-26** *“That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. [26] And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.”*
- **Num. 16:4-50** – “It is easy to blame the leadership for the mistakes of the rebellious and even the judgement of God on rebellion; but trust in the justice of God and do not repeat the errors of the wicked that God has judged.”

III. Don't wait until punishment is the only option to seek forgiveness.

- Korah's pride blinded him from seeing the error of his ways.
 - Korah failed to heed the godly warnings.
- A. Recognize that God will **punish** the transgressions of man.
- i. **Amos 1:11** *“Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he did pursue his brother with the sword, and did cast off all pity, and his anger did tear perpetually, and he kept his wrath for ever:”*
- ii. **II Kings 23:26** *“Notwithstanding the LORD turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked him withal.”*
- B. Realize that God will turn away His wrath **if** we humble ourselves.
- i. **II Chron. 12:12** *“And when he humbled himself, the wrath of the LORD turned from him, that he would not destroy him altogether: and also in Judah things went well.”*
- ii. **II Chron. 29:10** *“Now it is in mine heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that his fierce wrath may turn away from us.”*
- iii. **II Chron. 30:8** *“Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you.”*

C. Keep your **heart**, for out of it are the issues of life.

- i. **Hosea 10:12** “Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.”
 - ii. **Prov. 4:23** “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”
 - iii. **Prov. 15:10** “Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die.”
- **Romans 12:3** “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”

Close:

- Guard yourself from pride.
- Don't forget your purpose
- Don't wait until punishment is necessary in order to seek forgiveness.

1 Peter 5:5b

“...be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”

“My Name is Pride”

“My name is Pride. I am a cheater.

I cheat you of your God-given destiny... because you demand your own way.

I cheat you of contentment... because you “deserve better than this.”

I cheat you of knowledge...because you already know it all.

I cheat you of healing...because you are too full of you to forgive.

I cheat you of holiness...because you refuse to admit when you are wrong.

I cheat you of vision...because you'd rather look in the mirror than out a window.

I cheat you of genuine friendship... because nobody's going to know the real you.

I cheat you of love... because real romance demands sacrifice.

I cheat you of greatness in God's Kingdom ... because you refuse to wash an other's feet in this life.

I cheat you of God's glory... because I convinced you to seek your own.

My name is Pride. I am a cheater.

You like me because you think I'm always looking out for you.

Untrue. I'm looking to make a fool of you.

God has so much for you, I admit, but don't worry...If you stick with me, you'll never know.”

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- Korah’s attitude of rebellion _____ the hearts of those around him. **Num. 16:19-27; 41-50**
 - Because of their carnality, the people were _____ to follow Korah; but because of Moses’ warning those who separated were spared. **vs.19, 22-27**
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I. Guard yourself from pride. Num. 16:3

- **Ps. 75:4-7**
 - A. Pride _____ people from seeking God. **Ps. 10:4**
 - B. Pride is the chain that keeps _____ bound in wickedness. **Ps. 73:6**
 - C. Pride is a _____ to destruction. (**Prov. 16:18 / Jer. 50:32**)
 - D. Pride _____ people away from God. **James 4:6**

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- **I Cor. 12:12-27**
 - A. We are on the same _____. **Eph. 6:12**
 - B. We each have a unique _____ on the team.
 - C. The team is _____ without any one of its members.
 - D. We are not to be _____ of other members, we need to recognize that the team will _____ if I do not do my best at the tasks I’ve been given to accomplish. **I Cor. 12:25-26**

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 - Korah failed to heed the godly warnings.
- A. Recognize that God will _____ the transgressions of man. (**Amos 1:11 / II Kings 23:26**)
- B. Realize that God will turn away His wrath _____ we humble ourselves. (**II Chron. 12:12; 29:10; 30:8**)
- C. Keep your _____, for out of it are the issues of life. (**Hosea 10:12 / Prov. 4:23; 15:10**)

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