



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

God is Our Rescuer Series, Lesson 12

Lesson Title: Rescue Us from Whining

Take Home Point: God rescues us from our whining by showing us what we have to be thankful for in Jesus.

Warm-Up:

What if you lost everything for which you were ungrateful or about which you complained? What would you lose? Would you lose your sometimes difficult job, friends who occasionally get on your nerves, the plain food you eat, the older car you drive? Might you lose your physical body that doesn't look as you wish it did or hurts more than it used to? Is it possible you would lose your church? Maybe you would even lose opportunities to hear God's Word and receive his direction and guidance. What do you think you would lose?

Read: Numbers 21:4-9

Observation (What happened?):

What attitude grew in the people that caused them to complain against God and Moses?

What did those who were bitten have to do in order to live?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why were the Israelites wandering in the desert in the first place? What do you think was the real cause of their grumbling?

How did the Lord show he still cared for his people?

Insight:

What really caused the people of Israel to grumble and whine and complain? Numbers 21:4 tells us they got impatient with their circumstances. Their actions were the result of a wrong attitude or way of thinking. They were told by God that they would wander in the desert 40 years and die there, but that was probably forgotten in their discomfort and desire for something different. Where did their wrong actions start? In the mind and heart. Where do our wrong actions start? Same place. A popular theme in our Christian subculture today is, "What Would Jesus Do?" or "WWJD" for short. Perhaps we need to consider changing that to "WWJT," meaning, "What Would Jesus Think?" If we get our thinking straight and in line with what God tells us in the Bible, we will be taking the first and best step to maintaining right attitudes and avoiding wrong actions.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Read Philippians 2:14,15. Ask God to forgive you for any grumbling or complaining you have done recently.

Read Psalm 107 and 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Thank God for everything he has given you and done for you.