

***“I cannot carry all these people alone; the burden is too heavy for me. Please do me the favor of killing me at once so that I need no longer face this distress.” Numbers 11:15***

*“What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged—take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Are we weak and heavy-laden, burdened with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge—in His arms He'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there.”*

Today's message focuses on two situations where God turned frustration into something good! The Israelites were unhappy with their food situation and wanted something they couldn't afford and didn't know how to get. Their demands overwhelmed Moses to the point where he felt frustrated and wished for death (Numbers 11:15).

Moses had never encountered such an outpouring of emotions before. The weeping and wailing had reached a crescendo. The words "weeping" and "wailing" occur five times in the chapter (Num 11:4, 10, 13, 18, 20). People were wailing by family and tribe (Num 11:10). This is the first record of the Israelites wailing. Their cry to the Lord, when they were slaves in Egypt (Ex 2:23), was a generic word that paled in comparison to the lamentation before the door of Moses' tent. The wailing that the rabble started (v 4) had affected every household (v 10). The situation made Moses hate his job (Numbers 11:11) and made him frustrated with God and furious with his constituents.

The entire nation of Israel was in a desperate condition, similar to many of our own occasions. We felt surrounded by sand and sagebrush, tired of relying solely on manna for sustenance and longing for more than our daily bread. We were exhausted from living week to week, month to month, and yearned for something more substantial, like a 20oz. Rib-eye. We felt like starvation, bankruptcy, homelessness, and joblessness were just around the corner. The burden of medical bills, utility costs, mortgages, deadlines, and quotas weighed heavily on us. It seemed like we were stuck in a never-ending desert, where hope was fading, and misery thrived with dissatisfaction, discontent, disappointment, despair, and depression.

**Depression, despair, and discontentment often result from failing to trust and appreciate God's provision.** We often prioritize our ambitions, investing all our resources into them, only to realize that they drain us of valuable things in our lives—our time, money, and relationships. The solution to dissatisfaction lies in fully trusting God and turning to Him. God knows what we truly need, even when we can only see what we want.

**God does what God does best! He gives the people what they ask for—He tells Moses that He has heard all the groaning and complaining. They will have meat (Numbers 11:8). In a different way. God also answers Moses by giving him a management improvement plan. God responds to the people's cry, hears them, and gives them exactly what they ask for. The people got their rib-eyes as they had asked for, but they also got the real solution thrown in for good measure. "Sometimes what we think we need isn't what we need at all, and what gets thrown in for good measure is that which fills our hearts." - Philip Gulley**

**Moses did not have to feel or be miserable to the point of death.** The Israelites had not rejected or despised him but the Lord. The Lord did not expect Moses to do everything, to feel invincible, or to be error-free. Moses did not have to be perfect, just patient. God did not demand Moses to be a saint but a servant. **The Lord is ultimately responsible for all decisions, actions, and troubles.** Any complaint or displeasure against his faithful servants is an affront to Him. Moses thought he should do it all alone. But God made helpers for him to bear the burden! There are no Lone Rangers in the human race. Even the Lone Ranger had Tonto... No President without a vice-president—no executive without an assistant... **No pastor without a people.**

**Harmony in our lives, peace in our hearts, and contentment come from doing God's will,** His way, in His time. We should avoid the temptation to use our place, position, or spiritual gifts in God's kingdom to seek comfort, status, or honor. It's important to ask for help, seek help, and accept help. The book of Proverbs tells us, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." **Remember that God knows what you need, even when all you can see is what you want.** This is why we should be more excited about the future God has planned for us than we are afraid of the unknown. The two men who prophesied at the camp in the story gave us hope of **how God can use the power of the Holy Spirit to replace the spirit of negativity, defeatism, and doubt with a spirit of victory and shouting!**

**The power of the Holy Spirit has the ability to lift us out of frustration, just as it did for the two men who prophesied in the camp.** God overcame their despair by filling their hearts and minds with a vision of opportunity. When God's glory fell on them, they could see the promised land and all the good things God had in store. Previously, all they could see were the buckets of fish back in Egypt, but with God's spirit upon them, they could see a land ahead of them flowing with milk and honey. Their selfish ambition transformed into a godly ambition to see God's wonderful will unfold in the lives of everyone.

**God's plan always makes the situation better for everyone involved.** Selfish ambitions only look out for number one, at everyone else's expense. "When the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again." Because they had seen the vision of God's plan and only needed to see it once, it was a sign that God had done exactly as He told Moses He would do, and God needed to prove Himself only once.

God's self-reference to His shortened hand (v 23), which was often used in the context of a question, challenging Israel **and all of us to believe** in His power to deliver and save (Isaiah 50:2, 59:1). **Moses needed some perspective as he could only see earthly misery, unable to see beyond his own problems and the confines of the desert. However, God rained heavenly food on them (v 31), providing an immeasurable provision that surrounded them.** They were flown in and piled up three feet high, as far as a day's walk in any direction. **It is a reminder that God's grace is always sufficient.** God's power is still potent today and encourages those who are tired, weak, and heavy-laden to take their burdens to the Lord.