

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE Reading for March 9:

Numbers 11:24-13:33:

In today's reading, after recounting God's giving of quail to the Israelites and a subsequent penal fatal plague, we read of Miriam and Aaron rebelling against the leadership of Moses. Their contention was that the LORD did not speak only through Moses (12:2), so why should he be the main leader? The precipitating event was their displeasure with Moses' Cushite wife. The LORD Himself answered their contention by affirming He speaks with Moses in a way and to a degree of intimacy which exceeds any other man (12:5-9). As such, they were not only grumbling against the leadership of Moses, they were grumbling against the very Word of God itself. These are two grievous sins that were not only common among the Israelites (see also Numbers 11, 16), but also among Christians today (see Philippians 2:14-15). Numbers 12 should move us to repent of any ways in which we are ignoring or taking lightly the Word of God, as well as lead us to confess the sin of rebellion we may have against those leaders whom God has placed over us (see also Hebrews 13:17).

Numbers 13 brings us to the heart of this book and why the first generation out of Egypt was not allowed by God to enter Canaan. Twelve spies were sent into the land of Canaan with most likely a twofold purpose: (1) Even though God would go before them and give them victory, He would still work through means and so part of the military process was to gain information about the land. (2) God also wanted to encourage the Israelites with how great this land was which He was giving to them. Instead of preparing them for battle and encouraging them, ten of the spies (all but Joshua and Caleb) came back and could focus only on the size and number of the people, as well as the fortified cities. They concluded this was an impossible, suicidal mission. As such, they ignored and rebelled against the promise of God to give them victory over their enemies and the land. The sin is a lack of trusting God to be for them all He had promised to be and do for them all He had promised to do. This is still at the heart of our sin today! As we will find out tomorrow, Israel's unwillingness to trust God and follow Him had grave consequences.

Mark 14:22-52:

The rest of Mark 14 covers the remainder of the Thursday night on which Jesus was betrayed. In today's reading what Mark recounts is: (1) The institution of the Lord's Supper by Jesus at the end of the Passover meal. It was quite appropriate that the Passover meal in which Israel celebrated the slaughter of the lamb and the delivery out of Egyptian bondage would give birth to the Lord's Supper by which Christians celebrate the death of the Lamb of God who has accomplished salvation and delivered from the bondage of sin. Every time we have communion we are reminded that Jesus Christ is with us and that His saving work is at the heart of all we have and who we are in Him! (2) Jesus revealed that Peter will deny Him. In fact, all His disciples would abandon Him. (3) Jesus and the disciples went to Gethsemane, across the small Kidron Valley from the east side of Jerusalem (where the temple is). Jesus prayed and prepared for the crucifixion just before the betrayer, Judas, brought troops out to seize Him. (4) Jesus was arrested and willingly submitted that the Scriptures might be fulfilled. All left Him. One disciple leaves so quickly that he actually runs out of his clothing after someone

grabbed onto his outer garment. Since this is the only place this incident is mentioned and since no name is given, some think this may have been John Mark himself (the author of this Gospel).

Psalm 52:1-9:

This psalm assures all God's people that God is our refuge and, regardless how many enemies oppose them, one day God will vindicate His people and judge their enemies.

Proverbs 11:1-3:

The follower of the LORD is reminded of three very important ethical matters: Honest business practices, the folly of pride, and the importance of dealing uprightly in all things with people.