



October 14, 2012

FGTG #5:

THE DAY THE EARTH ATE MEN

Numbers 16-17

Sermon Outline

1. The Complaint of One Man (v. 16:1–19)
2. God's Severe Punishment (v. 16:20–35)
3. A Reminder of God's Sovereign Will (v. 16:36–40)
4. The Complaint of the Community (v. 16:41–45)
5. God's Rightful Punishment (v. 16:41–45)
6. A Reminder of God's Incredible Power (17:1–13)

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever gotten into trouble because you didn't pay attention to the warning signs? Describe the incident and why you chose to ignore the warning signs?
2. We learned that one consequence of grumbling is not being able to enjoy God's blessings; in fact, blessings can be taken away from us. This week we learned that grumbling could also bring about God's punishment like what happened to Korah and his fellow rebels. What did these rebels do to deserve God's punishment (v. 1-3)? Why was their sin so serious?
3. Describe the rebels. What position did they hold in the leadership structure of the Israelite community (v. 8-11)? How do you think the same scenario could happen in our own community? What could be the root of this problem? What lessons could we learn from this story in relating to our spiritual leaders? How does one's unjust complaint about a leader influence others?
4. God allowed the earth to "eat" the people (v. 31-34)! In verse 30 Moses expressed his wish that the Lord would bring about something new to judge the people of their sin so that they would know that it was a direct work of God and not just a chance event that might be interpreted differently. If you were present there, how would you feel? How would this turn you around in your relationship with the Lord? Do you know of there a story of natural disaster that has changed somebody you know?
5. What were the instructions given to Moses by God in verses 36-40? What is the purpose of this?
6. Did you ever think that you are on an equal footing or partnership with the supreme sovereign God? How do you understand this: "If you live in my house, you follow my rules. If you want to leave the house, are you ready to fend for yourself?" How does this reflect the thoughts and actions of the Israelites? How does it reflect our own life?
7. We have seen from this people that the problem lies on their attitude. They had a skewed spiritual perspective and didn't think that discipline was good for them. The attitude of complaining develops when little grumbings take a hold in our heart and become a part of our lifestyle. This then leads to the hardening of our hearts, and when our heart are hardened, we can no longer see God's blessings. Pray that our merciful God will change the way we think and live our life.

Part of the Sermon Series
From Grumbling to Gratitude
By Rev. Stephen Tan