



**FGTG #6:**

**ONE MISTAKE—A LIFETIME OF REGRET**

**Numbers 20:1-13**

**Sermon Outline**

1. The People's Complaint (v. 1-5)
2. God's Specific Instruction (v. 6-9)
3. Moses' Disobedience (v. 10-11)
4. God's Punishment (v. 12-13)

**Discussion Questions**

1. Why do you think that in most cases, leaders are blamed for the problems of government, companies, communities, and even churches?
2. The Israelites, who witnessed God's amazing power and discipline since leaving Egypt were once again complaining. What was the cause of their complaint (v. 2)? Whom did they blame for the problem? How should they have dealt with it instead of grumbling?
3. In your personal life, how do you deal with your problems? Are you like the Israelites who brought back old problems and blamed others for it instead of remembering how God had helped them in their situations in the past?
4. Once again, we saw how Moses (and Aaron) has responded to the immature reaction of the people. They approached God humbly to find a solution to the problem. What should we learn from him? How does approaching God in times of problems reflect our daily walk with Him?
5. What was God's explicit instruction to Moses? What do you think was the significance of the instruction: "Speak to the rock before their eyes"? Discuss how and why you think Moses reacted the way he did (v. 10-11). What does Psalm 103:10 tell us about what caused Moses' reaction? What was "the straw that broke the camel's back," which triggered such a rash reaction from Moses?
6. How did God react to Moses' action? What was the consequence of his sin (v. 12)? Do you think it was fair for God to give him such a harsh punishment? Why do you think God was "more strict" in dealing with Moses than He was with the people? In spite of this sad scenario, how did God show His loving kindness to the people (cf. v.11) and to Moses (cf. Deut. 3:23-29) in particular? How does God show that He still cares about you when you are being disobedient to Him?
7. Moses' one mistake caused him to lose his long time dream of stepping into the Promised Land. Do you agree with this statement: "A community's grumbling and complaining creates such a toxic environment that it causes good men and women to sin". Can you see how this is true in your family, home, place of work, and church? Let's look at our lives. Are we guilty of the same mistake? Does our attitude affect others or become a stumbling block to others? How should we deal with it?