



FGTG #7:

LOOKING TO THE CROSS

Numbers 21:4-9

Sermon Outline

1. The People Complain (v. 4-5)
2. The Lord's Punishment (v. 6)
3. The People Acknowledge Their Sin (v. 7)
4. Salvation by Faith for the People (v. 8-9)

Discussion Questions

1. How do you react when things don't go the way you want them to?
2. Numbers 21:4 tells us that "the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way" because they were refused passage through Edom (cf. Num. 20:14-21). Had they been allowed to pass, they would have gotten to the Promised Land faster, but they had to take a longer route instead. Because of this situation, how did they react? Who did they blame, and what complaint did they express again in verse 5?
3. How did God respond to their grumbling (v. 6)? How do you think God would deal with us if we keep on complaining? How should we deal with the cause of our complaining so that it will not grip our hearts and breed negative attitudes in our lives?
4. Verse 7 tells us something new that the Israelites did. What was it? What does it tell us about this new generation of Israelites? Do you think that they've finally learned their lesson?
5. When you realize that once again you are grumbling and sinning against God, what do you do? Have you ever learned from your mistakes? Could you share an experience that others in the group could learn from?
6. After the Israelites admitted their sin and asked Moses to pray to the Lord to take away the snakes, whose bite meant a slow death with intense suffering, what was God's response and solution to the problem (v. 8)?
7. Read John 3:14-15. By obeying God's directive to look up at the raised bronze snake, the Israelites show that they believe that God could and would heal those condemned to die from snakebites. How is it similar to us in relation to the cross? What do you think would have been the reaction of the people when they were told there is a remedy to their snakebites? How can you let other people around you know about this free gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?
8. How important is Jesus Christ's death on the cross for you? In relation to our eternal destiny, what did you deserve? By the grace of God, what did you receive instead? What are the reasons we so easily forget that salvation by faith is a gift (i.e. Romans 6:23)? Is it because it is "too easy"? What was the cost?
9. How does looking to the cross help you overcome grumbling and help you have a grateful heart?