

FAITH THAT SAVES!

Numbers 21:4-9

INTRODUCTION: You may think it strange to read from an Old Testament book like Numbers for a communion preparation message but it is not. Do you remember that our Lord Jesus said the entire Bible talks about Him? John 5:39. What is pictured in the Old Testament presented in the New Testament.

I. WHEN FAITH IS SADLY MISSING!

As we read the following verses see if you can identify the word I will be leaving out of each verse. Hebrews 12:2; Hebrews 11:1; Hebrews 11:6; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 10:17. Do you know that God says without faith we cannot please Him? Without faith we cannot know God or approach God. The closest we get to a definition of faith in the Bible is Hebrews 11:1-6. Faith is taking God at His Word and acting on what God has said. We need to be able to define faith but we must also live out our faith or it does no good. Let's look together at a lack of faith: Numbers 13:1-2; Numbers 13:25-33. When God gives us a promise we cannot look only to our own ability to gain what He has promised. We must learn to trust Him to act and we believe and bring about His promise for us. John 15:5; Philippians 4:13; 2 Chronicles 16:9. God did not expect His people to take the Promised Land alone but to trust His promise and watch Him bring it to pass!

II. THE FAITH THAT SAVES!

Numbers 21:4-5 tells us about the children of those who did not believe God back in our earlier readings in the book of Numbers got their lack of faith. Parents today need to be careful what you say about God because your children are listening. Eventually their faith in the Lord will be flavored by hour impact on their lives by your words and daily faith or lack thereof. Numbers 21:6-9. Whether they were bit once or ten times if they would simply look at the serpent upon the pole they would live.

III. LOOKING UNTO JESUS!

We find our Lord explaining to Nicodemus how to gain saving faith by using this illustration: John 3:14-15. Looking in the Old Testament is synonymous with believing on the New Testament Christ. Hebrews 12:1-2. While Israel looked with their eyes, believing is done with the heart. In the Old Testament a serpent was lifted up on a pole and whoever looked when they were bitten would live. In the New Testament the Son of God was lifted up on a wooden cross and whoever believes that He is Lord and confesses Him as their Lord and Savior will have eternal life! John 3:16-21. Communion verses: 1 Corinthians 11:23-32.