

Lord, Change My Rebellious Attitude

6 September, 2009



Rebellion against proper authority reveals a deeper rejection of God's authority, which brings devastating consequences to our lives

Bible text: Numbers chapter 16: Korah's rebellion

Objective: Examine the rebellion of the children of Israel, what went wrong, and what we can learn to avoid a similar peril.

Definition for Rebellion:

Knowing what God wants me to do and refusing to do it.

Six Sources of Rebellion as demonstrated by the Israelites in Numbers 16:

1. jealousy (verse 3)
2. delusion (verses 4-8)
3. ungratefulness (verses 9-10)
4. stubbornness (verse 12)
5. disappointment (verse 13)
6. distrust (verse 14)

Four Consequences of Rebellion as demonstrated by the Israelites in Numbers 16:

1. leadership withdrawal (verses 23-24)
2. innocent people are injured (verses 26-32)
3. guilty will be condemned (verses 28-35)
4. the infection spread (verse 41)

Discussion Questions

1. In what way is rebelliousness a universal problem for us?

Notes: perhaps the list of sources of rebellion (jealousy, delusions, ungratefulness, stubbornness, disappointments, distrusts) may trigger some sharing. Because we all want to feel worthy (self-worth), which leads to self-exaltation and pride, hence we think ourselves better than those in authority over us, that we can do a better job than they can. Perhaps it is us having pride in our own abilities and talents, but going too far with it that we no longer tolerate those who do things differently than us.

2. Observe the reaction and response of Moses when he was accused by Korah (Num 16:1-4). Reflect on similar incidents you have encountered, when others accused you unjustly. What was your reaction/ How did you react?

Notes: we usually respond by defending ourselves, and justify why our accusers are wrong in their claim, and we are right.

3. Compare Moses' response in Num 16:7 to Korah's accusation in 16:3. Moses called upon the Lord to be his witness and judge, whether all that Korah claim is true. Share with the group a time in your life when you have called upon God to vindicate you and how He has done so.

Notes: see example how God intervened for Joshua and Caleb in Num 14:10, how God defended Moses when accused by Miriam and Aaron (Num 12:1-10).

4. Which of these are consequences of rebellion that you have personally experienced, when you rebelled against the authority God put in place?

Notes: not all items may evoke a response; skip some if no response. Try to reflect on our own rebellion. (It is far easier to spot this in others, but that is not helpful to our spiritual growth)

- i Leadership withdrawal –
(e.g. our husband no longer protects us, our superior no longer defends us but lets us suffer our own errors, our teachers no longer strive for our benefit but work strictly by the book)
- ii Innocent people are injured –
(e.g. our children suffers as a result of our rebellion, the whole work dept gets into trouble because of my rebellion)
- iii Guilty will be condemned –
(e.g. directly punished for our rebellious act)
- iv The infection spreads –
(e.g. others around us also take up our rebellion, causing more trouble that eventually overthrows our authority)