Moses' Test of Success

Numbers 11:10-17

Life of Moses

Moses heard the people of every family wailing, each at the entrance to his tent. The LORD became exceedingly angry, and Moses was troubled.
Numbers 11:10

He asked the LORD, "Why have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me? Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their forefathers? **Numbers 11:11-12**

Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me,

'Give us meat to eat!' I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me. **Numbers 11:13-14**

If this is how you are going to treat me, put me to death right now—if I have found favor in your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin." **Numbers 11:15**

The LORD said to Moses: "Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the Tent of Meeting, that they may stand there with you. **Numbers 11:16**

I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit that is on you and put the Spirit on them. They will help you carry the burden of the people so

that you will not have to carry it alone. **Numbers 11:17**

Moses experienced success through his faith in God. Uninterrupted success is probably harder on the Christian than perpetual trial.

Tests of Moses' Success

1. **Moses experienced depression, from the continual stress in his life.**

What God did for Moses in his stress of responsibility

- God gave Moses companionship
- Moses is asked to worship, see how big is God

I can do everything through him who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13

If God is for us, who can be against us? **Romans 8:31**

I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. **Psalm 121:1-2**

What God did for Moses in his stress of responsibility

- God gave Moses a new assignment

2. Moses experienced jealousy, the result of his competitive nature.

Tests of Moses' Success

Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took of the Spirit that was on him and put the Spirit on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied, but they

did not do so again.
Numbers 11:25

But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!" Then Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp. **Numbers 11:29-30**

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. **Romans 12:10**

3. Moses had to cope with criticism from envious people.

Tests of Moses' Success

Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. "Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through

us?" And the Lord heard this.
Numbers 12:1-2

The Criticism against Moses

- Moses had an interracial marriage; his home life had been difficult at times —An area of weakness

- Moses was criticized by people who were close to him; Mariam and Aaron

Moses ignored the criticism
(Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)
Numbers 12:3

A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.
Proverbs 19:11

God angrily defends Moses
"When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams. But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. **Numbers 12:6-7**

With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" **Numbers 12:8**

4. Moses faced resentment from uncooperative people.
Tests of Moses' Success

Uncooperative and ungrateful people
That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and

Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert!
Numbers 14:1-2

And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt." **Numbers 14:4**

Moses refused to seek revenge
In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now." **Numbers 14:19**

For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. …if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.
1 Peter 2:19-20

Jesus wants you to follow Him to Magnificence

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. **1 Peter 2:21**

"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.
1 Peter 2:22-23

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.
1 Peter 2:24-25