

### **A Selective memory. Numbers 11.**

- ❖ The foreigners who had joined Israel encouraged them to ask for meat. They had had enough of manna! (Numbers 11:4, 6).
- ❖ However, they had a quite selective memory. They remembered they ate those things “freely” in Egypt, but they had forgotten about their tough slavery.
- ❖ God gave them meat “until it comes out of your nostrils” (Numbers 11:20). He also appointed leaders who could calm the people and mitigate their rebellion with the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **B Yearning for leadership. Numbers 12.**

- ❖ The people had been led by Moses, Aaron, and Mary until the rebellion of the quail (Micah 6:4).
- ❖ Then, 70 elders helped Moses to lead the people. Mary and Aaron were jealous and afraid of losing their leadership. Therefore, they use Moses’ marriage with a foreigner as an excuse to claim a position that did not correspond to them.
- ❖ Criticizing the leadership God has appointed is dangerous. Fortunately, they came to their senses. Aaron repented and interceded for his leprous sister. Without a doubt, intercession is much more powerful than criticism.

### **C Dissatisfaction and rebellion. Numbers 13; 14:1-10.**

- ❖ This is another example of selective memory. They had forgotten the crossing of the Red Sea, the water from the rock, the bitter waters being sweetened...
- ❖ They were at the gates of a land that “flows with milk and honey” (v. 27). God had promised it to them. They didn’t have to trust their own strength. However, they didn’t want to remember nor to listen to Caleb and trust God’s power.
- ❖ They were discouraged by the problems they saw ahead, so they rebelled against God and their leaders. Their rebellion went so far that they were willing to stone Joshua and Caleb.
- ❖ When we forget what God has done for us, we distort the present and don’t see the future clearly. This results in discouragement.

### **D Interceding for the rebels. Numbers 14:11-19.**

- ❖ Moses interceded for the people before God, as a type of Jesus. He admitted they were rebel and deserved destruction. However, he asked God to forgive them because of His love (v. 19).
- ❖ God showed His grace and forgave them. But He didn’t exempt them from the consequences of their rebellion. Only their children would enjoy what they had disregarded (v. 30-31).
- ❖ That was part of God’s grace too. They could not have conquered Canaan because of their lack of faith. However, their children learned the lessons they needed to do so during their pilgrimage through the desert.

### **E Lessons learned. Numbers 14:39-45.**

- ❖ They added presumptuousness to their rebellion. They acknowledged they were wrong, but still trusted their own strength instead of God’s (Numbers 14:39-45).
- ❖ Paul used their story as an example, so that we don’t make the same mistakes (1 Corinthians 10:1-12).
- ❖ Building our faith up is essential to keep presumptuousness away. Faith helps us to cling to God’s promises and to claim them. Not to excuse our transgressions, but to trust God’s love and obey His commandments.