

Saturday, March 12, 2022

From Darren: Numbers 16:41-18:32 Mark 16:1-20 Psalm 55:1-23 Proverbs 11:7

Num 16:41-18:32 - Moses and Aaron are better people than I

Ps 55:1-23 - Overwhelmed by trouble

Pro 11:7 - Don't rely on our strength

Mark 16:1-20 - Resurrection!

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Numbers 16:41-18:32

16 41 But the very next morning the whole community of Israel began muttering again against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You have killed the LORD 's people!" **42** As the community gathered to protest against Moses and Aaron, they turned toward the Tabernacle and saw that the cloud had covered it, and the glorious presence of the LORD appeared. **43** Moses and Aaron came and stood in front of the Tabernacle, **44** and the LORD said to Moses, **45** "Get away from all these people so that I can instantly destroy them!" But Moses and Aaron fell face down on the ground. **46** And Moses said to Aaron, "Quick, take an incense burner and place burning coals on it from the altar. Lay incense on it, and carry it out among the people to purify them and make them right with the LORD . The LORD 's anger is blazing against them—the plague has already begun." **47** Aaron did as Moses told him and ran out among the people. The plague had already begun to strike down the people, but Aaron burned the incense and purified the people. **48** He stood between the dead and the living, and the plague stopped. **49** But 14,700 people died in that plague, in addition to those who had died in the affair involving Korah. **50** Then because the plague had stopped, Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance of the Tabernacle.

17 1 Then the LORD said to Moses, **2** "Tell the people of Israel to bring you twelve wooden staffs, one from each leader of Israel's ancestral tribes, and inscribe each leader's name on his staff. **3** Inscribe Aaron's name on the staff of the tribe of Levi, for there must be one staff for the leader of each ancestral tribe. **4** Place these staffs in the Tabernacle in front of the Ark containing the tablets of the Covenant, where I meet with you. **5** Buds will sprout on the staff belonging to the man I choose. Then I will finally put an end to the people's murmuring and complaining against you." **6** So Moses gave the instructions to the people of Israel, and each of the twelve tribal leaders, including Aaron, brought Moses a staff. **7** Moses placed the staffs in the LORD 's presence in the Tabernacle of the Covenant. **8** When he went into the Tabernacle of the Covenant the next day, he found that Aaron's staff, representing the tribe of Levi, had sprouted, budded, blossomed, and produced ripe almonds! **9** When Moses brought all the staffs

out from the LORD 's presence, he showed them to the people. Each man claimed his own staff. **10** And the LORD said to Moses: "Place Aaron's staff permanently before the Ark of the Covenant to serve as a warning to rebels. This should put an end to their complaints against me and prevent any further deaths." **11** So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. **12** Then the people of Israel said to Moses, "Look, we are doomed! We are dead! We are ruined! **13** Everyone who even comes close to the Tabernacle of the LORD dies. Are we all doomed to die?"

18 **1** Then the LORD said to Aaron: "You, your sons, and your relatives from the tribe of Levi will be held responsible for any offenses related to the sanctuary. But you and your sons alone will be held responsible for violations connected with the priesthood. **2** "Bring your relatives of the tribe of Levi—your ancestral tribe—to assist you and your sons as you perform the sacred duties in front of the Tabernacle of the Covenant. **3** But as the Levites go about all their assigned duties at the Tabernacle, they must be careful not to go near any of the sacred objects or the altar. If they do, both you and they will die. **4** The Levites must join you in fulfilling their responsibilities for the care and maintenance of the Tabernacle, but no unauthorized person may assist you. **5** "You yourselves must perform the sacred duties inside the sanctuary and at the altar. If you follow these instructions, the LORD 's anger will never again blaze against the people of Israel. **6** I myself have chosen your fellow Levites from among the Israelites to be your special assistants. They are a gift to you, dedicated to the LORD for service in the Tabernacle. **7** But you and your sons, the priests, must personally handle all the priestly rituals associated with the altar and with everything behind the inner curtain. I am giving you the priesthood as your special privilege of service. Any unauthorized person who comes too near the sanctuary will be put to death." **8** The LORD gave these further instructions to Aaron: "I myself have put you in charge of all the holy offerings that are brought to me by the people of Israel. I have given all these consecrated offerings to you and your sons as your permanent share. **9** You are allotted the portion of the most holy offerings that is not burned on the fire. This portion of all the most holy offerings—including the grain offerings, sin offerings, and guilt offerings—will be most holy, and it belongs to you and your sons. **10** You must eat it as a most holy offering. All the males may eat of it, and you must treat it as most holy. **11** "All the sacred offerings and special offerings presented to me when the Israelites lift them up before the altar also belong to you. I have given them to you and to your sons and daughters as your permanent share. Any member of your family who is ceremonially clean may eat of these offerings. **12** "I also give you the harvest gifts brought by the people as offerings to the LORD —the best of the olive oil, new wine, and grain. **13** All the first crops of their land that the people present to the LORD belong to you. Any member of your family who is ceremonially clean may eat this food. **14** "Everything in Israel that is specially set apart for the LORD also belongs to

you. **15** “The firstborn of every mother, whether human or animal, that is offered to the LORD will be yours. But you must always redeem your firstborn sons and the firstborn of ceremonially unclean animals. **16** Redeem them when they are one month old. The redemption price is five pieces of silver (as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel, which equals twenty gerahs). **17** “However, you may not redeem the firstborn of cattle, sheep, or goats. They are holy and have been set apart for the LORD . Sprinkle their blood on the altar, and burn their fat as a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the LORD . **18** The meat of these animals will be yours, just like the breast and right thigh that are presented by lifting them up as a special offering before the altar. **19** Yes, I am giving you all these holy offerings that the people of Israel bring to the LORD . They are for you and your sons and daughters, to be eaten as your permanent share. This is an eternal and unbreakable covenant between the LORD and you, and it also applies to your descendants.” **20** And the LORD said to Aaron, “You priests will receive no allotment of land or share of property among the people of Israel. I am your share and your allotment. **21** As for the tribe of Levi, your relatives, I will compensate them for their service in the Tabernacle. Instead of an allotment of land, I will give them the tithes from the entire land of Israel. **22** “From now on, no Israelites except priests or Levites may approach the Tabernacle. If they come too near, they will be judged guilty and will die. **23** Only the Levites may serve at the Tabernacle, and they will be held responsible for any offenses against it. This is a permanent law for you, to be observed from generation to generation. The Levites will receive no allotment of land among the Israelites, **24** because I have given them the Israelites’ tithes, which have been presented as sacred offerings to the LORD . This will be the Levites’ share. That is why I said they would receive no allotment of land among the Israelites.” **25** The LORD also told Moses, **26** “Give these instructions to the Levites: When you receive from the people of Israel the tithes I have assigned as your allotment, give a tenth of the tithes you receive—a tithe of the tithe—to the LORD as a sacred offering. **27** The LORD will consider this offering to be your harvest offering, as though it were the first grain from your own threshing floor or wine from your own winepress. **28** You must present one-tenth of the tithe received from the Israelites as a sacred offering to the LORD . This is the LORD ’s sacred portion, and you must present it to Aaron the priest. **29** Be sure to give to the LORD the best portions of the gifts given to you. **30** “Also, give these instructions to the Levites: When you present the best part as your offering, it will be considered as though it came from your own threshing floor or winepress. **31** You Levites and your families may eat this food anywhere you wish, for it is your compensation for serving in the Tabernacle. **32** You will not be considered guilty for accepting the LORD ’s tithes if you give the best portion to the priests. But be careful not to treat the holy gifts of the people of Israel as though they were common. If you do, you will die.”

Psalm 55:1-23

55 **1** Listen to my prayer, O God. Do not ignore my cry for help! **2** Please listen and answer me, for I am overwhelmed by my troubles. **3** My enemies shout at me, making loud and wicked threats. They bring trouble on me and angrily hunt me down. **4** My heart pounds in my chest. The terror of death assaults me. **5** Fear and trembling overwhelm me, and I can't stop shaking. **6** Oh, that I had wings like a dove; then I would fly away and rest! **7** I would fly far away to the quiet of the wilderness. Interlude **8** How quickly I would escape— far from this wild storm of hatred. **9** Confuse them, Lord, and frustrate their plans, for I see violence and conflict in the city. **10** Its walls are patrolled day and night against invaders, but the real danger is wickedness within the city. **11** Everything is falling apart; threats and cheating are rampant in the streets. **12** It is not an enemy who taunts me— I could bear that. It is not my foes who so arrogantly insult me— I could have hidden from them. **13** Instead, it is you—my equal, my companion and close friend. **14** What good fellowship we once enjoyed as we walked together to the house of God. **15** Let death stalk my enemies; let the grave swallow them alive, for evil makes its home within them. **16** But I will call on God, and the LORD will rescue me. **17** Morning, noon, and night I cry out in my distress, and the LORD hears my voice. **18** He ransoms me and keeps me safe from the battle waged against me, though many still oppose me. **19** God, who has ruled forever, will hear me and humble them. Interlude For my enemies refuse to change their ways; they do not fear God. **20** As for my companion, he betrayed his friends; he broke his promises. **21** His words are as smooth as butter, but in his heart is war. His words are as soothing as lotion, but underneath are daggers! **22** Give your burdens to the LORD, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall. **23** But you, O God, will send the wicked down to the pit of destruction. Murderers and liars will die young, but I am trusting you to save me.

Proverbs 11:7

11 **7** When the wicked die, their hopes die with them, for they rely on their own feeble strength.

Mark 16:1-20

16 **1** Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus'

body. **2** Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. **3** On the way they were asking each other, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” **4** But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside. **5** When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, **6** but the angel said, “Don’t be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body. **7** Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died.” **8** The women fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened.

[The most ancient manuscripts of Mark conclude with verse 16:8. Later manuscripts add one or both of the following endings.]

Short Ending

Then they briefly reported all this to Peter and his companions. Afterward Jesus himself sent them out from east to west with the sacred and unfailing message of salvation that gives eternal life. Amen.

Longer Ending

9 After Jesus rose from the dead early on Sunday morning, the first person who saw him was Mary Magdalene, the woman from whom he had cast out seven demons. **10** She went to the disciples, who were grieving and weeping, and told them what had happened. **11** But when she told them that Jesus was alive and she had seen him, they didn’t believe her. **12** Afterward he appeared in a different form to two of his followers who were walking from Jerusalem into the country. **13** They rushed back to tell the others, but no one believed them. **14** Still later he appeared to the eleven disciples as they were eating together. He rebuked them for their stubborn unbelief because they refused to believe those who had seen him after he had been raised from the dead. **15** And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. **16** Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. **17** These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. **18** They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won’t hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.” **19** When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand. **20** And the disciples went everywhere and preached, and the Lord worked through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs.