

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

March 11, 2016

- ✓ Numbers 11-12– The complaining people (11); Aaron & Miriam’s jealousy of Moses (12).
- ✓ John 18:1-24 – The betrayal and arrest of Jesus.
- ✓ Psalm 11-12 – Confidence in God (11); Confidence in God’s Word (12)

SUMMARY AND REFLECTIONS:

Numbers 11-12. All leaders have their moments of weakness and frustration with the people of God. It is important for any leader to turn to God during those moments for strength to do his job as unto the Lord and grant people the freedom make their own decisions, even when those decisions are destructive and blasphemous. Moses had more than his share of people getting upset with his leadership in their rebellion against the Lord. Moses did not always handle these situations correctly—neither have I. However, in Numbers 11 we see a glimpse of what an amazingly honest leader he was before the Lord. The people were upset because they did not have meat and were wanting to go back to the slavery of Egypt for some sense of security. They were clearly going against the plan of God. But what did Moses do? He responded by going to God and opening up his heart with his honest feelings about the whole matter. Yes, he should not have felt sorry for himself, and he should not have told God to kill him, but this is how he felt as he poured out his heart to the Lord. However, in all of this he did not reject God as such. The Lord answered his prayer by providing help in the form of dividing some of the duties among the people and making the people accountable for their own actions (11:16-23). Regardless of how we feel, we need to be honest with God, especially during those hours when we just want to give up.



John 18:1-24. Note in 18:6, *When, therefore He said to them, "I am He," they drew back, and fell to the ground.* This is a remarkable manifestation of the Lord's glory: I AM, ἐγώ εἰμι! At this point they could *not* lay a hand on Him!

There He stood, seemingly defenseless, yet when He declared that the I AM, *Esse*, they fell in a huddled heap before Him. What strange awe and terror they must have felt in this instant! Here was what they thought was just a weak and poor man. In an instant He reveals His eternal glorious nature as God from within His human frail frame, and they all fell backwards helplessly. What a beautiful illustration of glory in lowliness and abasement in glory. Right before He *allows them to capture Him*, He sends forth a flash of His



glory. Does this not speak beautifully of the voluntariness of our Lord's suffering for you and me? Does it not tell of His love for us more than Himself by the fact that He did not care to flee from them as they lay prostrate on the ground? It was His love for you and me and the Father that motivated Him to lay aside this glory and power and be punished for our sins. Oh what love! Look at His love for His own in verse eight: *"I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go."* He is telling them "Take Me."

Psalms 11-12. Note the confidence that David has in the Lord in 11:4-7. This confidence is developed over time. It is not an isolated act of the will reserved for times of crises. Neither the Bible nor its promises were ever designed to be totems of identity or problem solving. To really trust the Lord requires a developed relationship with Him on a daily basis. No one can have confidence in anyone he really does not know very well. We see confidence in God's Word in 12:6-8, this likewise is only possible by a life in the Word. Only by living in the Word can one have the confidence to say that the Word of God is "flawless, as silver refined in a clay furnace, purified seven times." How would one know that unless one has seen it vindicated over time in situation after situation?

*The words
of the LORD
are flawless words,
as silver refined
in a clay furnace,
purified seven times.
Psalm 12:6*

In, by, with, through, and for *Esse*,

Pastor Don