Change-Points and God's Grace in the OT

(Numbers 21:1-13, Deut. 2:2-3, 7)

Intro. (Num. 14:22, A. W. Tozer-Rut, Rot, or Revival, 1992)

Change Points (Deut. 2:2-3,7 and Num. 20)

Circling No lack of water or food

Crises

The sons of Israel

The leadership

Consequences

Life Response for Today's Believer

1. Are we in a rut, a comfortable situation, circling in routine that keeps God at bay, and is our faith dulled from lack of use?

2. We all have situations like Kadesh-Barnea or failures that God will take us back toward Him to see if we will trust Him this time.

3. Failure: The Backdoor to Success (Lutzer, 1975) is an excellent book on seeing our failures as stepping-stones to a deeper relationship with Christ.

4. We cannot unequivocally gauge spiritually by results. Two-thirds obedience to God's Word is incomplete obedience. It is not treating God and His Word as holy.

5. Remember Enoch, Noah, Jeremiah, and the Lord Jesus Christ. The question is not quantity but quality in the power of the Holy Spirit.

6. Beware of frustration and impatience since these characteristics will hinder us from hearing God's voice clearly.

7. God is a God of limitless, eternal grace. His grace covers our failures, our repeated sins, our unbelief, our continual self-effort, our daily sin, and even our successes. Remember "where sin abounded, grace did much more abound!"