

## Turning the Crap of Life, Into the Fruit of the Spirit Some People Are Just Jerks or Elders or In-Laws . . . How We Are Expected To Deal With Jerks

How do we deal with people who deal us nothing but misery? Does the Bible show us the way Jesus expects us to deal with people who aren't easy to deal with?

**Take the Example of Moses:** He is picked to be the leader of God's people. After several failed attempts to convince God that he wasn't the man, God finally moves Moses to confront Pharaoh. After 10 plagues, countless livestock and people dying, finally Pharaoh lets them go. Only to later decide that he doesn't want to let them go and pursues them only to lose his army when they attempt to cross the Red Sea after the Children of Israel. So suffice to say, everyone involved had seen God work in a mighty way.

### **Numbers 11:1-6 – The Jerks of those that Demand from you**

- The Children of Israel complain about having no meat. They are tired of the manna that has been provided. They want to return to Egypt and slavery to have the food they use to have as a slave.
- Moses confessed his discouragement with the job of leading these people as well as his lack of ability to fulfill their need, in this case their want of meat.
- The Lord provides meat and helpers for Moses, to help him bear the burden of dealing with the people

### **Numbers 12:1-5 – The Jerks known as your Family**

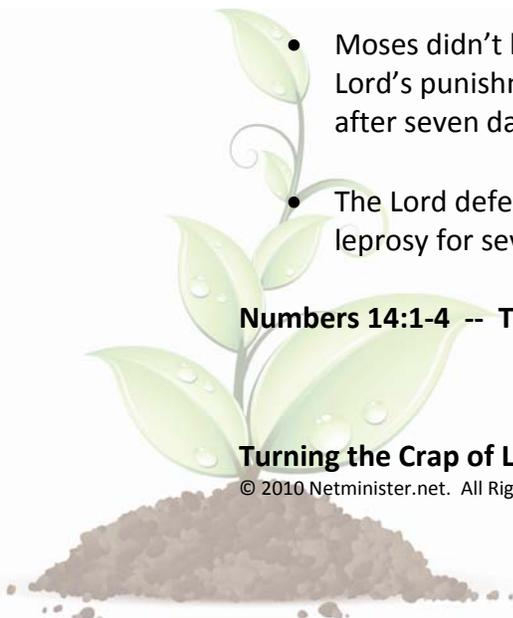
- The family of Moses (his brother Aaron and Miriam) complained against Moses' leadership because of his wife.

- Moses didn't have to answer to the charge, God answered for him, and after the Lord's punishment of Miriam, Moses pleaded with God to heal her and he did after seven days.
- The Lord defends Moses to both Aaron and Miriam and punishes Miriam with leprosy for seven days outside the camp.

### **Numbers 14:1-4 -- The Jerks of Opposition to What Is Right!**

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- The Children of Israel believe the evil and erroneous report of 10 of the 12 spies sent into the Promised Land. They even want to stone Caleb and Joshua! The people want to return to slavery.
- Moses is offered a greater nation for him to lead. God says He will wipe out this group and start anew with a nation better than this one. Here Moses could have all the complaining removed forever, but instead he pleaded for the people before God
- The Lord punishes the people by not letting them into Canaan. This generation will die out all but Caleb and Joshua. It will take another 40 years before any of the children enter the Promised Land

#### **Numbers 16:1-3 – The Jerks are People With Authority**

- The Children of Israel have a leader of Renowned rise up against Moses' leadership. These men were the leaders of the congregation. They wished to take leadership from Moses because he was taking on too much authority! They all wanted to lead.
- Moses was angry. He took his anger to the Lord and confided in Him. Then he made intercession for the rest of the children to hold the Wrath of the Lord back.
- The Lord consumed those that rebelled with fire and threatened again to consume the whole people.

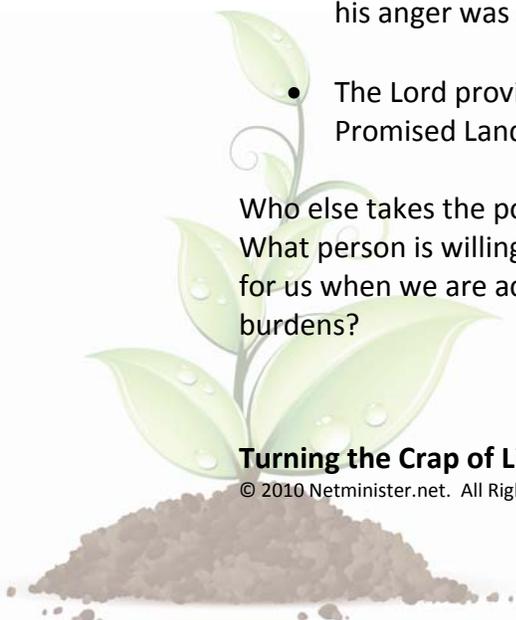
#### **Numbers 20:1-5 – The Jerks cause you to Sin and Hurt Others**

- The Children of Israel complained about not having any water, they complained to Moses and Aaron and wished to return to slavery in Egypt.
- Moses was given instructions to speak to the rock and the water would flow, but his anger was so great that he spoke to the people and struck the rock.
- The Lord provided water, but now Moses and Aaron could not enter the Promised Land

Who else takes the position of standing before God to plead for us when we are jerks? What person is willing to lay before the wrath of God to save His people? Who answers for us when we are accused by others? Who can we call on to help us with our burdens?

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So how do you deal Biblically, in a Christ-like manner with people who are just Jerks?

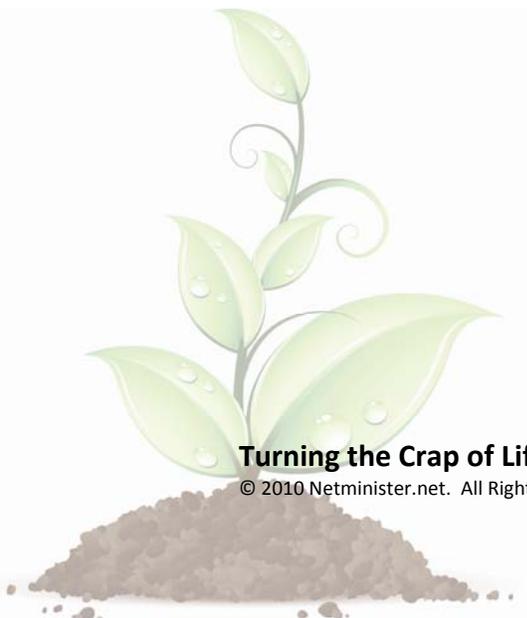
**Romans 12:17-20**

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. NKJV

**Matthew 5:44**

But I say to you, **love** your enemies, **bless** those that curse you, **do good** to those that hate you, and **pray** for those that spitefully use you and persecute you . . . NKJV



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