

Feb. 12, 20th Chapter of Numbers first 13 verses.

I want to give you a lesson from this passage of scripture that I have selected for this morning. You are going out in the state, each one of you to be a leader of a small company to the band that Moses was leading, and I expect you to be a small leader, but never-the-less you are going out into the state to teach those little children and they are going to look to you, they are going to expect a great deal of you.

You want to have love for those little fellows at all times, and though they may not do what you want them to do, though they may not do what you think they ought to do, don't lose your temper. God expects more of the leader than he does of the follower. We are told in this great book that ten time the children of Israel lost their faith and went back, gave up following Jehovah, and ten times Jehovah forgave them. Moses is the one person in all history who talked face to face with God and lived. Moses is the great law giver of the children of Israel, and through them the great law giver of the world. He had enough to try his soul, he had enough to try his patience time and time again. Time and time again we find in the Bible that Jehovah said he would destroy those people and build up a nation from Moses, and then Moses went to Jehovah and prayed for the children of Israel, and we are told that Jehovah heard his prayers. Moses was selected as the leader to lead them out of Egypt into the promised land of Canaan

They camped there for a good long time and they rebelled against Moses and against Jehovah. Moses and the High Priest Aaron took their case to Jehovah. God tells them to take the children of Israel up there to the rock. God told Moses to speak to the rock and water will come. Moses must not have been feeling very well that morning. From the standpoint of a human he had had enough to wear his patience out. He said, you rebels have I got to supply you with water, and he took the rod and struck the rock twice he was so angry. He wasn't told to hit the rock at all. He didn't the children of Israel but in his anger he did what Jehovah did not tell him to do, but for that one sin Moses could not go into the promised land. He was the leader, he was the one human being that God spoke to face to face and still lived, but even Moses as close to Jehovah as he was not forgiven but was punished, he was punished because he did not live up to the ideals that he had been standing for, because he didn't teach the commandments of Jehovah. Those who are put in authority over us-, we have a right to expect more of them, they are supposed to be better informed. Moses as you remember from the story I have read went with the children of Israel until they got just across Jordan and he was taken up on Mt. Nebo. Caleb and Joshua out of that generation alone were allowed to go into the promised land. Caleb and Joshua made a minority report. When they went into they had another spirit, so we are told, and Jehovah told them that they alone should go in, and we are going to study the story from now on of Joshua the great military leader of the Jews. Moses let his anger get the better of him. He lost his love for his people for a little while, and that kept Moses from going into the promised land with the children of Israel.

Now if you want to teach good citizenship you must love your



children. That teacher who does not love the little ones she is teaching cannot lead them as they should be led. If you love them you can do almost any thing in the world you want to with them because they in turn will love you and they will follow you, they will do almost anything you ask them to do. Occasionally I hear a teacher say I have the meanest little bunch of children I ever saw in my life. When I hear a teacher say that I don't have to go in the class room, I don't have to go into her room to know that she is an absolute failure. If she feels that way toward those children there is just one of two things that she ought to do, first, make herself love them, and if she can't do that resign her position. She is a failure, you can't bring the best out in human beings if you are looking for the evil all the time. If the children do not do their best to conform to the rules and regulations in the class room because they want to then you are training them to be against law and order instead of for law and order. That class room that has a war in it all the time between teacher and student is a class room that is training a given number of American citizens against law and is therefore a positive factor for harm instead of a positive factor for good. Make yourself love your work or don't undertake it. When you are working with human beings you are shaping the destiny of human life. (Read the 13th chapter of Corinthians.)

David tells us God is love. Let the spirit of love reach out from your life, and take the lives of little children and lead them into law abiding right minded men and women, and you will be for good citizenship.