Lessons from Numbers 16 from Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and Aaron

- God gets to decide who is *holy* and who is *not*- man has not the right nor the prerogative to determine such for himself, vv.1-7a; cf. Num.11:1-2; 14:20-32;

- Contentment with your area of services is a good thing, vv.7b-10; cf. Num.1: 50-54; 3:27-32; Ex.28:1; Rom.12:3-8;

- Complaints, especially when contrary to evidence and logic, are never a good thing, vv.3-4,11,45; cf. Num.11:26-30; 12:3-8; Phil.2:14-15;

- Attributing God's work and accomplishments to a man or men, leads to skewed perspectives and misplaced loyalties, vv.12-14; cf. 1Cor.3:1-6;

- A righteous man's prayer avails much- even when it is imprecatory in nature, vv.15-19; cf. 1Pet.3:12; Jas.5:16-18;

- God doesn't destroy the *righteous* along with the *wicked,* vv.20-30; cf. Gen.18:23ff; Ex.23:7; 2Thess.1:5-10;

- God certainly brings the impenitent to justice, vv.31-35; Luke 13:1-5; Heb.10:26-31;

- God doesn't want to destroy us; He wants us to learn and live- and gives us *signs* to help us (if we will heed them), vv.36-40; cf. Ezk.18:21-32; John 12:37; 20:30-31;

- It's often *hard* to see your own sin, and always *easy* to blame others for it, v.41; cf. vv.28-30ff; cp. 1Sam.15:12-30; Jas.1:22-25;

- It takes both tremendous *humility* and *courage* to be a true leader of God's people, vv.42-50; *humility-* vv.4,22,45; *courage-* vv.15-19, 28-30, 46-48; cf. Titus 1:7-11.

Conclusion:

So from this account, whom do **you** most resemble?

> ➢ The *fickle* people who first *followed* and then *fled* from Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, vv.2-3,11,19,25-27,34,41-42?

> ➢ The rebellious and impenitent Korah, Dathan, and Abiram who weren't content with their elevated service, and sought to blame the humble and holy for their own sins, vv.2-3,8-10?

> ➢ Or Moses and Aaron, who were *humble* enough to *fall on their faces* and plead for God to spare their sinful brethren, yet *courageous* enough to *fight* both *against* and *for* them, vv.4,22,45, 15,46-48?

Where do, and will you *stand?*