

## A LESSON LEARNED TOO LATE

By Keith Greer

Have you ever heard the old saying, **"We don't appreciate what we have until we don't have it anymore."**? There is much truth in this statement. Even many Bible examples emphasize this truth. Allow me to share a couple with you.

**Moses & Israel.** Did the children of Israel ever learn to appreciate this man Moses? What had he done for them?

"Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation". Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said: "LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever'." So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people." (Exodus 32: 10-14)

"And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 'Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment'. Then they fell on their faces, and said, 'O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation?'" (Numbers 16:20-22)

Why didn't Moses allow God to consume this ungrateful and disobedient people? Give them what they want--send them packing back to Egypt. Let God destroy them in His wrath! Yet, Moses made intercession for them with God. Why? He loved them. What did they do when Moses died?

"And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. So the days of weeping and mourning for Moses ended. .. But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face," (Deuteronomy 34:8,10)

**Jesus & Jews.** Did His own people ever learn to appreciate who Jesus was and the great love He had for them? "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him." {John 1:11}

"And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. " {Matthew 14:14}

"From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more." {John 6:66}

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. "{Acts 10:38}

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her J How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing." {Matthew 23:37}

Are people any different today? Husbands take wives, wives take husbands, children take their parents, and we take God, for granted! How many times do you see spouses and parents, who seem to never get over their grief over the lost of loved ones, because now they understand the value of what has been lost which cannot now be recovered! We need to learn to appreciate what God has given us! Don't learn this lesson too late! \*\*\*