**Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 (ESV)**

**4** Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, “Oh that we had meat to eat! **5**  We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. **6** But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.” **10** Moses heard the people weeping throughout their clans, everyone at the door of his tent. And the anger of the Lord blazed hotly, and Moses was displeased. **11**  Moses said to the Lord, “Why have you dealt ill with your servant? And why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? **12** Did I conceive all this people? Did I give them birth, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a nursing child,’ to the land that you swore to give their fathers? **13**  Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me and say, ‘Give us meat, that we may eat.’ **14**  I am not able to carry all this people alone; the burden is too heavy for me. **15** If you will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favor in your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness.” **16** Then the Lord said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you.

**24** So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. **25** Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it. **26** Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. **27** And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” **28** And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, “My lord Moses, stop them.” **29** But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!” **30** And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

**“The Spirit Lifts Up The Burden”**

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen. Machines make life seem limitless. The assembly line keeps punching out products. The tractor relentlessly drives through the fields. The technological advances keep on extending life. Yet, there are limitations not so much with machines, but with us as human beings. Labor, leadership, and life weigh down upon us. Farmers can only work so many hours in the fields. Leaders can smile only so much when trying to answer the distressing questions. Life is not as free as we want to imagine, especially when the Law presses heavy upon us. As much as the machine makes everything easier, this fact remains true as it has for all times and places. The burden of life killed Jesus, but He has become the hope of salvation for those wandering in this sinful world.

Israel wept after leaving Mt. Sinai over the “life” they did not have.

* The rabble from within produced an unholy craving.
* “Many non-Israelites had been integrated into the community of faith, and other communities no doubt took advantage of the opportunity to choose freedom” (Concordia Pulpit Resources Vol. 16 part 4 27)
* “We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.” (Same as Eve/Tree)
* How forgetful over Egypt and slavery.
* Similar burden of greed found in life by capitalism.
* Sinful nature within each individual freely wants more above all else.
* St. James declares, “Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.”
* How blind are we about the Old Adam painting a false picture.

Moses cried out to the Lord to save this leader of the people.

* His questions to God only lead him to plead for deliverance.
* “I am not able to carry all this people alone; the burden is too heavy for me. If you will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favor in your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness.”
* This “burden” was a load to carry like a donkey. The Word of God preached and prayers for mercy.
* How easy to turn to the Egyptian way of worshiping men like Pharaoh.
* Similar burden of guilt found in life by socialism.
* Dietrich Bonheoffer while teaching at an underground seminary during WWII wrote, “The desire we so often hear expressed today for ‘episcopal figures,’ ‘priestly men,’ ‘authoritative personalities’ springs frequently enough from a spiritually sick need for the admiration of men, for the establishment of visible human authority, because the genuine authority of service appears to be so unimpressive…The Church will place its confidence only in the simple servant of the Word of Jesus Christ because it knows that then it will be guided, not according to human wisdom and human conceit, but by the Word of the Good Shepherd.” (Life Together 108)
* St. James proclaimed, “As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast.”
* How easy the works of men betray God’s Word for sinners.

Only God brought the burden of good news as the hope for His people.

* Israel would have its fill of meat to eat.
* God told Moses, “Therefore the Lord will give you meat, and you shall eat. You shall not eat just one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, but a whole month, until it comes out at your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you.”
* Moses would see the Spirit of God at work upon the 70 elders.
* Early Church Father Cyril of Jerusalem, “It was not that the Spirit was divided, but his gifts were distributed according to the vessels and the capacity of the recipients…To make it clear that it was not Moses who bestowed the gift by the Spirit who created it, Eldad and Medad, who had been called but had not yet presented themselves also prophesied.” (ACC 218)

Only Jesus is able to bring the burden of good news as the hope for our life.

* The Savior forgives far beyond our need for satisfaction but the whole greedy condition.
* St. Paul celebrates the fact, “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:31-32)
* The Savior carries to completion the guilt of what no one can carry for sinners.
* Psalmist rejoiced to say today, “Your name, O Lord, endures forever, your renown, O Lord, throughout all ages. (Psalms 135:13)
* The Savior freely bestows His Spirit as the promise of His love in these last days.
* Life has fallen upon all the baptized? (priesthood of all believers)
* None goes it alone in guilt for Jesus says in the Gospel reading, “Have salt in yourselves.” It is like Him saying, “have my Spirit, my Word, my forgiveness, my enduring sacrifice.” Only He is able to lets us, “be at peace with one another.”

The burden of life killed Jesus, but He has become the very hope of salvation for those wandering in a sinful world.