

# Numbers 14:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses told these sayings unto all the children of Israel:  
and the people mourned greatly.

## Analysis

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When Moses reported God's judgment, 'all the people mourned greatly.' This grief came too late—they mourned the consequences of their unbelief but not the unbelief itself. False repentance regrets punishment rather than sin, a grief that leads not to life but to presumptuous disobedience (verses 40-45).

## Historical Context

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True repentance involves change of mind and direction; their mourning led instead to presumptuous attack against the Canaanites in direct defiance of God's command. This pattern—rejecting God's timing, then presuming on His blessing apart from His command—reveals hearts unchanged despite tears.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. Do you mourn sin itself or merely its consequences?
2. How can you distinguish genuine repentance from mere regret?

