

Taking It Home

We can easily see how the nation of Israel continually made poor choices. Hundreds of years later we read the accounts and find it easy judge their foolishness. Yet we can be like them in many ways. Throughout their Journey we discover that He has a plan, He is willing to prepare us, He is willing to guide us and He is willing to keep His promises. Israel constantly failed to trust, follow and live a life of obedience because of their human nature. Think on a broad scale for a moment. What might God want to accomplish with His plan for your life? If you trust, He will lead you to a point of obedience (maybe it will be somewhat of a crisis). What changes in your life would be necessary to grow close enough to Him that He might prepare you for such a moment? Have you surrendered everything to Him? Is He truly Lord of your life?



Small Group Lesson—Numbers

Week of Oct. 13, 2013

Quick Review:

What principal, insight or observation from Sunday's message was the most helpful, eye opening or troubling?

My Story:

Read Galatians 5:16-17. We all struggle at times with our desires and wants. Clearly this passage tells us that we cannot always do what pleases us. Can you recall a time when you made a decision based upon your want but really did not have a peace about it? How did it turn out?

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:16. Everyone faces circumstances we would rather not have to face. We as Christians cannot always control circumstances but can find a peace whenever confronted by them. Can you share with the group a time when things looked fearful or bleak but God blessed you with a peace that passes all understanding?

Digging Deeper:

The book of Numbers details the wanderings of the Israelites through the wilderness. Just as it took forty years for Moses to become a man suitable for God to use, it took another forty years for Israel to become a nation submitted to God and suitable for receiving His promise. Pastor Rodger shared how our lives can be different if we seek to live in God's favor rather than His mere acceptance.

Numbers chapters 1-10 speaks to a time in the history of Israel when God was preparing the nation to receive His promise. How was God preparing His people to face the events of the future?

Read Numbers 10:15-18. These verses as well as the rest of the chapter are very specific about God's guidance for the camp. The fact is they did not know where they were headed or for how long it would take to get there, but they were obedient to follow when the cloud moved and to stay when it stayed. Discuss how this example is relevant to New Testament Christianity. How does God guide us today?

Read Numbers 14:1-4. After the report from those that spied out the land was heard by the people, they rebelled. This is a study in human nature. They focused squarely on the circumstances and determined that this was a bad situation. Who did they blame? How did they accuse the Lord? Where did they want to go? What was wrong with all of this and what should their response have been?

Even when we make bad decisions God remains willing to redirect our lives and deliver His promises. In chapter 21:1 we are told that Israel suffered somewhat of a defeat at the hand of the Canaanites. As a result, what did Israel vow in verse 2 and what was God's response in verse 3? Note in verse 4 and 5 how Israel reverted to old habits. What can we determine about God's character from this passage?

In the closing chapters of Numbers, God once again prepares the nation of Israel to enter the Promised Land. After constant rebellion, disobedience and sometimes evilness, God's plan moves forward. What does this tell us of God's character? What does this mean for us as God's people today?