



GOD'S GLORY & THE TABERNACLE

NUMBERS 9:15-23



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“At the Lord’s command they encamped, and at the Lord’s command they set out. They obeyed the Lord’s order, in accordance with his command through Moses.” Numbers 9: 23

As the Israelites made their way through the desert, God guided them with a cloud over the tabernacle by day, which turned into fire at night. When He wanted them to move, He would lift the cloud and they would follow where it would go, to the next place they would camp. They would remain wherever they were until He told them to move. If I’m honest, I find myself jealous at the notion of the simplicity that I simply stay in one place until I see a crystal-clear sign of when God wants me to move.

Look at the verse of that passage though, “at the command of the LORD by Moses.” God spoke to Moses, but the people had to wait for Moses to tell them what was said and what to do. We don’t have to do that. We can talk to God whenever we want. He came down and guided His people with the cloud and fire, but we have The Spirit to guide us. What a gift!

If I can make a confession here, I will admit that so often I go before Him, or dare I say, without Him. We have this illusion in the world we live in today that we can navigate most of life without Jesus’ help. I would imagine that the Israelites got up every day and the first thing they did as they came out of their tents was look to see if the cloud had moved from the tabernacle. Do you rise every

morning and turn your heart to God to see what He would like you to do with your day? Or do you, like I tend to do, get up and immediately go through your list of the things you must do that day?

We have a clear pattern of examples in Scripture of God drawing near to us. Here He did it with the cloud, fire and His engagement with Moses. Our challenge is to remember that truth and look to Him for guidance. He told them when to act and when to just be where they are. It wasn’t a set pattern or some algorithm to be calculated. It was about relationship with Him. That is what it is to be with us. The minute I think I have it down and I don’t need to check in with Him is the minute I have gone off track and not looked to the cloud to know when to move.

May we always wait for and look to Him to know when we move, and where.

Papa, thank you for everything we have from You. Thank you for not leaving Your people in the desert, and not leaving us to navigate life on our own. Allow us to always remember to wait for You and when You tell us to move, and may we obey with gladness of heart. Amen.

DECEMBER 16

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17



This Advent season, you are invited to join us in-person or watch our Sunday worship live at cspc.net/live.

8:15 + 9:30 + 11AM

Livestream at 8:15 and 11AM