



Which Way did He go?

Numbers 9:15-23

Listen! To find direction in a literal desert we must use the sun, stars, and landmarks.

Why talk about this? We need direction in the emotional, relational, physical, and spiritual deserts of our lives.

- **Question:** How do we find direction in the desert times of our lives?

Central Idea: To thrive in desert times...incessantly follow the presence of God. (v 23)

Or, in desert times constantly ask, "Where is God and what is He up to?"

Numbers 9:15-23:

- The tabernacle:
- The cloud and the fire:
- Lifted/settled/stayed:
- Overnight/2 days/1 month/1 year:
- Summary obedience (v 23):
- Psalm 73:25-28:
- Exodus 33:15:

For Instance: Sources of direction:

For Instance: Non-sources of direction:

Applications: In the desert we need:

- ...a terrific sensitivity to God's directions—not to our own.
- ...a terrific obedience to God's timing—not to impatience.
- ...a terrific commitment to God's presence—not to relief.

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk this week.

Central Truth: To thrive in desert times...incessantly follow the presence of God. (v 23)

Please take time each day this week to think through these questions and ideas:

- Make a list of the five worst “desert times” in your life.
- Who have been your best human companions in the desert times of your life? Why?
- When you are in the times of personal deserts have you tended to draw near to people or pull away from people?
- When you are in the times of personal deserts have you tended to draw near to God or pull away from God?
- How do you best draw near to God?
- How would you describe the relationship between direction in the desert and companionship in the desert?
- What new thing would you be willing to do, something that you are not now doing, in order to draw near to God? Psalm 73:25-28.

“The core issue in any desert is seeking the presence of God.”