



Following the Cloud

Lessons on Guidance from Desert University

Desert Lesson 2: Guidance is A-S-K

Introduction

Desert Lesson 2 reminds us that God's guidance does not always feel safe, simple, or logical. Sometimes He leads us into places where we feel hemmed in so we can learn to trust that He has both the way in and the way out.

When we follow the cloud, we discover that God goes before us, stands behind us, and fights for us.

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Exodus 14:1-4a

1Then the Lord said to Moses, 2“Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. 3Pharaoh will think, ‘The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.’ 4And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them.

Proverbs 3:5-6

5Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
6in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

Exodus 14:19, 24-25

19Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, 24During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. 25He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.”

John 14:6a

6Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life.”

John 10:11-12

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.”

Matthew 7:7

7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

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A

A – Ask (“Keep on asking”)

Start the conversation by presenting specific petitions, like jobs or relationships, directly to God.



S

S – Seek (“Keep on seeking”)

Intentionally pursue God’s wisdom, heart, and alignment while navigating difficult “desert seasons.”



K

K – Knock (“Keep on knocking”)

Practice active trust by standing at the threshold until God opens the door or redirects.



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Message notes:

If you can learn the lessons in the desert, they'll transfer into _____ times.

It's not about your abilities, strengths, and resources. Follow the _____ .

When he leads you into a situation that there's no way out, but Him. That's when _____ has to trust Him.

When you feel vulnerable, He's got your _____.

So, the reason we want to follow Jesus, it's not just that He _____ the way, He _____ the way.

Remember, if He's the way, walking with you, that means He sets the _____.

Remember three letters, _____.

The safest place to be is to be near your _____ , to walk close with your Father, to be under the _____.

Additional notes:

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Discussion Questions:

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 warns against leaning on your own understanding, yet we naturally do that when facing major decisions. What practices could help you distinguish between your own desires and genuine divine leading?
2. Pastor Jamie shares that in Israel's wilderness journey, the majority were never right, and that what is popular is often not what is Godly. How do you avoid the trap of majority-rule thinking in your spiritual life?
3. The pillar of cloud moved from leading Israel to standing guard behind them as Egypt closed in (Exodus 14:19-20). Where do you sense God protecting you right now—work, a relationship, your health, a decision you're waiting on, or something you can't fix for someone you love?
4. God led Israel into a position where they appeared hemmed in and confused, yet this was a divine trap for the enemy. Think of a time in your life when you felt completely stuck with no clear way forward. How did you respond emotionally and spiritually in that moment?
5. Pastor Jamie said being near the shepherd is the safest place to be, even though it doesn't guarantee comfort or the absence of hardship. If staying close to God this year cost you one of these, which would be hardest to give up: financial security, a comfortable routine, being well thought of, control over how things turn out, or a relationship?

Ministry Time:

Pray for those who feel stuck with no clear way out. Rather than asking God to force an exit, ask Him to reveal what He may be doing or revealing in this season.

Pray for those who need to take a deliberate step this week to draw closer to God, whether through extended prayer, Scripture meditation, worship, or honest journaling. Prioritize nearness to Him as the primary goal.