



Following the Cloud

Lessons on Guidance from Desert University

Desert Lesson 3: Guidance is Whenever, Wherever

Introduction

In Desert Lesson 3, we look at Numbers 9 and the cloud over the tabernacle as a picture of God's guidance. Following the Lord means saying yes to His "whenever" and "wherever," even when His timing or direction feels uncertain.

As we learn to hear Him through Scripture, prayer, peace, wise counsel, and confirmation, we grow in confidence to follow where He leads.

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Numbers 9:15-17

15On the day the tabernacle, the tent of the covenant law, was set up, the cloud covered it. From evening till morning the cloud above the tabernacle looked like fire. 16That is how it continued to be; the cloud covered it, and at night it looked like fire. 17Whenever the cloud lifted from above the tent, the Israelites set out; wherever the cloud settled, the Israelites encamped.

Colossians 3:15

15Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

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Message notes:

And what you're saying there is, "God, _____ you lead,
_____ you lead, I'm going to follow."

I'm going to go with you. I'm going to trust you. It comes out of
that _____ that we have.

You get that _____ by being rooted in the Word of
God.

God, if you're going to bring something about, give me
_____ here.

If you can't wait for His _____ then you won't be able to
walk into His beautiful next future.

There's another step here that has to happen. Especially
in a relationship, there has to be some levels of
_____.

And you might not feel it on the outside, but you begin to sense
His _____ in the inside.

Don't seek out your own advice, guidance, and wisdom without
_____ it with Scripture, with the Lord, with other
leaders, and with other people that are going to be involved.

Additional notes:

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Discussion Questions:

1. The video describes a 'whenever and wherever' posture toward following God. What areas of your life do you find it most difficult to surrender to that kind of open-ended commitment? For example, it might be your money, your job, where you live, your schedule, or a relationship you're protecting.
2. Pastor Jasen described how the Israelites could always see the cloud by day and the fire by night, giving them constant awareness of God's presence. What practices or habits help you stay aware of God's presence in your own daily life?
3. The video emphasized that God's leading will never contradict Scripture. Think of a decision you're weighing or recently made—did you go to the Bible before, during, after, or not at all?
4. Pastor Jasen shared that he got it wrong multiple times before sensing God's direction clearly in his relationship with Cari. Think of a time you were certain God was leading you in a specific direction, only to realize later it wasn't His plan. Looking back, what can you learn about how God wants to lead you?
5. This message frames following God as a relationship rather than a formula, suggesting that predictability would cost us intimacy with Him. In what ways have unexpected movements of God in your life deepened your relationship with Him?

Ministry Time:

Pray for anyone who is facing an important decision and struggling to hear God clearly. Invite the Holy Spirit to meet them with His presence, and strengthen their 'whenever, wherever' heart posture so they might boldly follow Him.

Pray for anyone who senses God calling them somewhere that feels overwhelming. Ask for the peace of Christ to be a guidepost as they bring their anxiety to Him honestly and follow in faith. Ask God to reveal those around them who could provide wise counsel and confirmation.