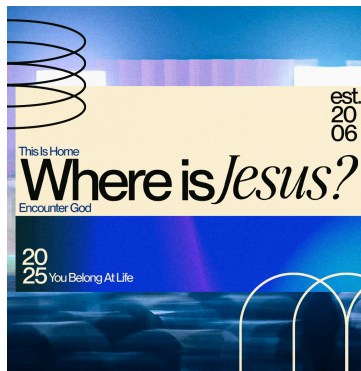




Where is Jesus? PT. IV | Numbers | Mark Allen | 11.16.25

Opening Prayer

Pray

Icebreaker

Share about a time when you tried to do something "your way" instead of following directions, and it didn't turn out well. What did you learn?

Key Scripture References

- Numbers 6:23-27 (The Aaronic Blessing)
- Numbers 9:15-23 (The Cloud and Fire)
- Numbers 11:21-23 (Is God's Power Limited?)
- Proverbs 14:12 (The Way That Seems Right)
- John 3:14-16 (The Bronze Serpent and Jesus)
- Romans 7:24-25 (Victory Through Christ)9

Key Takeaways:

- ✓ **God's presence should be at the CENTER of everything** in our lives—not on the periphery
- ✓ **Invoke God's name** over your marriage, children, finances, health, and decisions—then do things His way

✓ **Murmuring and complaining** bring judgment in the form of fire (destructive words), plague (stress/anxiety), and poison (envy/jealousy)

✓ **God's power is NOT limited**—He can handle whatever you're facing

✓ **Trust leads to life; going our own way leads to death** (Proverbs 14:12)

✓ **Just as Moses lifted up the serpent, Jesus was lifted up** to provide our way of escape from sin and death

Sermon Summary

The Book of Numbers teaches us to **trust God because He knows what He's talking about**.

The sermon divides Numbers into three sections:

1. **Chapters 1-10:** God's provision and guidance for warfare
2. **Chapters 11-21:** Israel's murmuring, complaining, and God's judgment
3. **Chapters 21-26:** God's protection despite their failure

The Israelites had the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night—constant reminders of God's presence—yet they still complained. This mirrors our lives today when we have God's presence through the Holy Spirit but struggle to trust Him fully.

Discussion Questions:

Section 1: God's Presence in the Center (15 minutes)

1. **Pastor Mark emphasized putting God "in the middle" of everything (like the tabernacle in the center of the camp).** What does it practically look like to put God in the center of your daily life? What areas tend to push Him to the periphery?
2. **Read Numbers 6:24-26 (The Aaronic Blessing).** Pastor Mark said, "Invoke the name of Jesus" over your life, marriage, children, and circumstances. What does it mean to invoke God's name over something versus just doing things our own way?

3. **The Israelites had a pillar of cloud and fire to remind them of God's presence.** How does the Holy Spirit serve that same purpose for us today? When was a time you "looked outside your tent" and saw evidence of God's presence?

Section 2: Murmuring and Complaining (15 minutes)

4. **Despite seeing God's miracles (parting the Red Sea, manna, quail), the Israelites complained constantly.** Why do you think it's so easy to forget God's faithfulness when facing new challenges? Share an example from your own life.
5. **Pastor Mark said murmuring and complaining lead to gossip, slander, and scandal—creating "fires with our mouths."** How have you seen complaining damage relationships in families, friendships, or churches? What's the antidote?
6. **God asked Moses, "Is the Lord's power limited?" (Numbers 11:23)** In what area of your life are you currently living as if God's power IS limited? (marriage, finances, health, children, etc.)?

Section 3: God's Protection Despite Failure (15 minutes)

7. **Read John 3:14-16 and its connection to Numbers 21 (the bronze serpent).** How does this Old Testament story deepen your understanding of what Jesus did on the cross?
 8. **The sermon mentioned that 1.2 million people died during 40 years of wandering—about 82 funerals per day.** This was the consequence of not trusting God. What "deaths" (relationships, dreams, peace, joy) have you experienced when you've gone your own way instead of God's?
 9. **Paul said in Romans 7 that he did what he didn't want to do and didn't do what he wanted to do.** How does this honest confession encourage you? How does verse 25 ("Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ") offer hope?
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Practical Applications (15 minutes)

Personal Reflection:

Take 2-3 minutes of silence for each person to identify one specific area where they need to trust God more fully.

Group Sharing & Prayer:

Go around the circle and have each person complete this sentence:

"One area where I need to trust God instead of doing things my way is _____."

After each person shares, have someone pray specifically for that person's situation.

This Week's Challenge:

- Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

 1. **Start each day by praying Numbers 6:24-26** over yourself and your family
 2. **When you feel stress or anxiety**, stop and say out loud: "God, I'm giving this to You. Your power is not limited."
 3. **Replace one complaint with gratitude** each day—catch yourself murmuring and intentionally thank God instead
 4. **Identify one decision** you're facing and ask, "What does God want?" before asking "What do I want?"

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Have someone close in prayer, specifically asking God to:

- Help group members put Jesus in the center of their lives
- Give grace to trust Him in areas where they've been going their own way

- Break patterns of murmuring and complaining
- Remind them that His power is unlimited
- Help them "look to the pole" (Jesus) for healing and salvation

For Next Week

Preparation: Read the Book of Deuteronomy or the next sermon passage as directed by your pastor.

Memory Verse: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance on you and give you peace." - Numbers 6:24-26

Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to those who may be struggling with trust issues due to past disappointments
 - Encourage honesty—this is a safe place to admit we don't always trust God
 - Remind the group that God protected Israel DESPITE their failures—His grace is sufficient
 - If someone needs salvation or deeper prayer, connect them with pastoral staff
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