

Corn Maze Devotion

Wandering in the Desert, not corn, for 40 Years

Reading: Numbers 32:6-13

⁶ Moses said to the Gadites and Reubenites, "Shall your countrymen go to war while you sit here? ⁷ Why do you discourage the Israelites from going over into the land the LORD has given them? ⁸ This is what your fathers did when I sent them from Kadesh Barnea to look over the land. ⁹ After they went up to the Valley of Eshcol and viewed the land, they discouraged the Israelites from entering the land the LORD had given them. ¹⁰ The LORD's anger was aroused that day and he swore this oath: ¹¹ 'Because they have not followed me wholeheartedly, not one of the men twenty years old or more who came up out of Egypt will see the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob- ¹² not one except Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun, for they followed the LORD wholeheartedly.' ¹³ The LORD's anger burned against Israel and he made them wander in the desert forty years, until the whole generation of those who had done evil in his sight was gone.

Devotion:

40 years of wandering in the desert. Now that is a long time. That's a long time to be lost. After the Israelites escaped from Pharaoh in Egypt, they headed to the Promised Land. But they didn't wander for 40 years lost because Moses was too stubborn to ask for directions. And it wasn't because he forgot to charge the batteries in his GPS before he left. In fact, they always knew where they were going. God provided a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night that the Israelites were always able to follow so they would not get lost. I bet your GPS can't do that. So if the Israelites had the ultimate GPS, God, to guide them, how could they get lost for 40 years?

The simple answer is sin. Time and time again in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers, we see where the children of Israel didn't trust God. Whether it was complaining about not having food, water, or just tired of walking, they never trusted God. Even Moses got frustrated with God sometimes. God led them to the Promised Land quickly, but their sin kept them from entering it. The only way God would let them in is if they would start to trust him.

Thousands of years later, we are still wandering around because of sin. We many times know we are doing wrong, but we just are not willing to follow what God commands. Lucky for us, God does not make us wander around completely lost. And while the Israelites did not always trust God that they would one day enter the promised land, we know for certain that if we have faith in Jesus we will one day get to enter our promised land: Heaven.

Hopefully as you begin on your adventure tonight, you will not be lost in the corn maze for 40 years. In fact, you need to be out by closing time. For some of you, it might take a map to find your way out, but some of you might stumble across the exit. But with Heaven, we only have one path to salvation: Jesus. He is there to help us when we hit those dead ends in life. He is the GPS for our lives, and we always need to remember we need his guidance. Without him, we are never going to find the right exit.

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for being my leader, even when I choose not to follow, and I get really lost. Please help us keep the being lost to the corn maze, and help us not be lost in our lives since we are following you. In your name we pray, amen.