

MOSES FOUND GUIDANCE ON THE MOUNTAIN

I. Moses found proper guidance.

- a. No doubt there were plenty of people in the camp who believed they knew exactly what God wanted for them.
- b. Later in the journey to Canaan, we read of a group of men who believed they knew what was best above Moses and Aaron.
 - i. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram got together and tried to lead the Jews away from Moses and Aaron by saying that those two men of God had taken more on them than they should have.
 - ii. The account in Numbers 16 reveals to us that they did not know near as much as they thought they did.
- c. There are always those who are ready to give guidance but really have no idea where they are truly headed.
- d. Such has always been the case.
 - i. Jesus referred to the leaders of Israel as blind leaders.
 - ii. The blind were following the blind and heading for the ditch and not heaven.
- e. Moses knew that only God would be able to give proper guidance to His people, so it was to God he went on the mount.
- f. We have to make sure that we are getting the proper guidance from God's word.
 - i. We must make sure that we are being taught the pure word of God.
 - ii. It is up to each individual to make sure that is the case.
 - iii. 2 Peter 1:10.
- g. On the day of judgment, we will each be held accountable for how we heard and followed God's word.
 - i. It is His word that will judge us (John 12:48).
 - ii. This is why it is so important to study for ourselves and not rely on a preacher, teacher, loved one, or anyone else for their study of God's word.
- h. You and I know people who are being led down a path that does not lead to God by those who claim to know the way.
- i. God's word is easily accessible, more so than any other time in history.
- j. There will be no excuse on the judgment that will take away one's guilt for not knowing and following the guidance God gives us through His word.
- k. Before the days of modern navigational aids a traveler made the Atlantic crossing in a boat equipped with two compasses. One was fixed to the deck where the man at the wheel could see it. The other compass was fastened up on one of the masts, and often a sailor would be seen climbing up to inspect it.
 - i. The passenger asked the captain, "Why do you have two compasses"?

- ii. This is an iron vessel, replied the Captain. And the compass on deck is often affected by its surrounding. Such is not the case with the compass at the masthead; that one is above the influence. We steer by the compass above.
 - I. We have a compass from above, and we need to make sure that we are following it.
- II. **Moses went to the mount for continual guidance.**
 - a. Look at Exodus 19 with me.
 - i. The average person who reads this account and goes on and reads after Moses broke the 10 commandments he had been given at first, probably goes away with the idea that Moses went up the mount twice.
 - ii. The truth is, Moses went up the mount numerous times.
 - iii. There is a debate between whether it was seven or eight times.
 - b. How many times it was is not important.
 - c. What is important is that we see Moses went back continually to get the guidance he needed to be right with God.
 - d. Learning from God's word is not a one and done proposition.
 - i. I love basketball, always have.
 - ii. One thing that is hurting college basketball are the one and done guys.
 - iii. This is how some of us treat God's word: we learn what to do to be saved and we stop learning.
 - e. I love the books of 1 and 2 Timothy because they were written to a preacher by a preacher.
 - i. I always get sad at the end of 2 Timothy because I know that Paul died soon after writing it.
 - ii. I marvel at 2 Timothy 4:9-13, especially verse 13.
 - iii. There was Paul, in prison and about to die, and he still wanted to read God's word.
 - iv. Paul never stopped going to God's word for guidance.
 - f. There is never a time when we will be spiritually mature enough to say that we don't need God's word any more.
 - g. 1 Peter 2:2 was written to Christians.
 - h. Long ago the Psalmist said the he had hid God's word in his heart so that he would not sin against God (Psalm 119:11).
 - i. Later, our Lord would reject the temptations of Satan by quoting three times from the book of Deuteronomy (Matthew 4:1ff).
 - j. God's word is to continually guide us and for that to take place, we have to continually go to it for guidance.
 - k. The ways it guides us are varied.
 - i. It may be by a command that it guides us.

- ii. It may be by an account of one of God's people that is similar to some situation in which we find ourselves.
 - iii. It may be by something we are interested in that is not mentioned in God's word.
- I. The fact is, it is there to guide us and we must continually go to it so that we can grow (2 Peter 3:18).

III. Moses taught that the guidance must be passed on.

- a. Deuteronomy 6:6-9.
 - i. Moses was very pointed that this guidance needed to be passed on to their children.
 - ii. He also very plainly stated that they needed to have that guidance in their hearts so that it would always be with them.
- b. Joshua made a copy of the law just a few months later, after the 2nd battle of Ai (Joshua 8:30-35).
 - i. He made sure that the people had another copy of the Law.
 - ii. He also read it to them, word for word, so that they would all be able to hear it.
- c. Sadly, we get to the book of Judges and read that there arose a generation after Joshua that didn't know God (Joshua 2:10).
 - i. This shows us that there was not a good enough job done of passing on God's word.
 - ii. Yes, they had copies of it, but they didn't know it.
- d. It has long been said that we are just one generation away from apostasy.
- e. As parents, we have to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).
- f. The older brethren are to teach the younger ones according to Titus 2:1-10.
- g. God's word will not creep into our minds on its own, nor the minds of our children.
- h. It is up to us to make sure that we and our families are desiring and getting the sincere milk of the word so that we can all grow.