

the Holy Spirit and Holy Word, and ever ready and willing to "move out" in Spirit enabled obedience in various areas of our lives.

- A. Whether it was the cloud by day or the fire by night, they knew God was near. It was a visible reminder of God's nearness. We can look at this and see that it showed the _____ and _____ of Israel.

For your personal study: On clouds & fire: Acts 1:9, Matthew 26:64-65, Acts 2 (on the Day of Pentecost).

10:1-10

The trumpets told them to break camp, to gather for a meeting, sounded the call to war, and for feasts.

- B. What did the trumpets mean to the people? The trumpets were God's way of summoning the leaders to come and counsel with Him, or to call the whole of Israel to do the same, or to call them to break camp and march.

For your personal study: On trumpets & clouds: Rev. 1:10, Rev. 8:1-2, I Thess. 4:13-18.

Closing: *We EastPointeians are on a journey through the wilderness...*

Where are we going? What will it take to get there? What will God need to develop in us along the way?

What did God develop in you today? You saw:

- ✓ God's invitation to celebrate the Passover.
- ✓ Worship is both duty and delight.
- ✓ Moses paused to check with God before a decision.
- ✓ God honored both Moses and the men who had the question about missing the Passover.
- ✓ The importance of the visible presence of God in the cloud and fire...then and into our future.

Series: The Life and Times of Moses
Text: Numbers 9-10:10



Title: Keep and Observe
Topic: It was and is about God

Review: Two weeks ago the emphasis was on giving to get the tabernacle up and running. The people gave much wealth to have a place for God to dwell ...so they would have a place to meet with Him.

Last week the emphasis was on the men who would lead worship services and move the tabernacle whenever they moved. The 3 families of Levites who helped the priests were cleansed. In both lessons we saw obedience on the part of individuals as well as the nation of people as a whole.

Lesson:

1. **The graciousness of God to _____ them (9:1-3)**

Bible Extra: The next day began at twilight for them. Twilight was the moment whereby if you held up a black and a white thread, you could not tell the difference between them.

What was the origin of Passover?

Why can we see this as an invitation from God?

Did they deserve to observe Passover by their recent actions?

Did they deserve to observe Passover their faithfulness?

"But He extended the invitation anyway: 'Moses, go tell the people that just like I commanded you, just like you've written down in the book of Exodus, that on the fourteenth day of the first month, I want my people to come and celebrate this Passover meal with Me. You tell them to come and do it, despite all that has happened in the year before. You tell them to come.' It's a word of grace from the Lord, and it shows the forgiving, gracious, mercy of the Lord to His people." Duncan

2. Both _____ and _____ are seen in their obedience to worship God in the Passover (4-5)

The people did _____ what God told them to do through Moses

"And so their attitude is not, 'Oh, do I have to obey all those stipulations about the Passover?' Their response is, 'You mean I get to have this meal with God? You mean after all I've done in this last year, I get to have this meal with God? I want to do everything just like God told me to do in His word, because I get to have this meal with God!' They're delighted to do their duty!" unknown

Verses 6-7:

Point: In verse 3 and 4 (and all the way to verse 13) we see the word "keep" or "observe" in most of our versions. They were to *keep* or *observe* the Passover. What we should not miss here is the importance of what happened a year ago. In a real sense, they could *celebrate* the rescue of their firstborn. They were to keep the rules/regulations...and they could very gladly do it. ⁷

On the one hand, there was duty (demands, obligations, rites of worship to meet) and on the other hand, there was delight (celebration or thankfulness for being rescued or passed over a year ago). To forget to celebrate is to lose the joy and heart of worship.

3. Moses listens and _____ for God to speak! (8)

There are some men who are unclean. This is a once per year event and they were going to miss out because they had been to a funeral.

Moses does not feel he has the right to suspend a command from God. He cannot go over God's head and make this decision on his own. So, he pauses and goes to God for an answer.

Point: This is a good pattern for all believers to follow when we do not have a clear sense of what we are to do in a particular situation. Today we go to Him in His Word and wait on Him in prayer with an open Bible and an open (willing) heart.

James 1:5-8 *But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, ⁸ being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

Today: What should our response be when we have a decision to make?

4. God _____ both Moses and the men. (9-13)

What do you suppose this did to their "delight"?

Mini summary + a deeper understanding:

Exodus 4:14 Moses tried to talk God out of sending him... Ex.24 Moses had not circumcised his son.

Exodus 32: Aaron easily and willingly makes a calf...and wants to have an altar to God with it.

- God has graciously invited (patient grace).
- Israel worshiped in duty.
- Israel worshiped in delight.
- God responds in kindness so all could participate.

5. The _____ and the _____ (9:15-23)

Point for today: There is a powerful application of this OT pattern to our lives today (for we also are in a "wilderness" called the "world"). Just as the Israelites had to continually be ready to "move out," and do so with an obedient spirit, so too believers need to be ever sensitive to the leading to