

# Sermon Notes

“Such a Good Beginning”

Numbers 10:11-36

June 12, 2022

c. From what specific sinful desire will you ask God to help you abstain this week?

5. Moses clearly expresses dependence upon God for deliverance from their enemies (Numbers 10:35-36), while still preparing the people for battle and soliciting human help from Hobab. This brings up the intersection of human effort and God’s sovereign intervention. What do the following passages teach about these?

John 15:5

Philippians 2:12-13; 4:13

Colossians 1:28-29

Do these passages portray the Christian as passive, idly watching to see God do something spiritually significant, or as actively laboring in ministry, all the while depending upon God to render those efforts fruitful? How is this significant in your life?

6. Moses invites Hobab along on the journey (Num. 10:29-32). Although the trip will be marked by hardship and battles, Moses reassures Hobab that there is great blessing promised from God. Who have we invited lately to join us on the journey toward God’s promised blessed eternity? If their initial response was similar to Hobab’s refusal, what might be our next approach?

**Let’s Pray**

2. Although they were setting out for the land God promised to them (10:29), the trip itself was to be understood as transitional, temporary. The New Testament admonishes a similar perspective for Christians about this present life (cf. Hebrews 11:8-10, 13c-16; 13:14; 1 Peter 2:11). In what concrete ways can we demonstrate the truth that we are “aliens and strangers” on earth (Heb. 11:13)?
3. The portrayal of the Christian life as a military battle against spiritual forces of darkness is a recurring theme, especially in Paul’s writings (2 Cor. 10:3-6; Eph. 6:10-18; 2 Tim. 2:3-4)?
  - a. How did the spiritual warfare that Paul fought, and the spiritual weapons that he used, differ from ordinary warfare and weapons (2 Cor. 10:3-4)?
  - b. How can you better utilize the spiritual weapons that are available to you (Eph. 6:10-18)?
4. Read 1 Peter 2:11-12.
  - a. From what did Peter urge his readers to abstain? Why?
  - b. When have you felt that you were at war with sinful desires? Why is it so hard to abstain from sinful desires?

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of 6-12-2022

Adapted from James Galvin, ed., et al., *New Testament Lesson Maker*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 258, 304, 313;.

## Getting Started:

1. Share an illustration of the principle that a good start doesn’t ensure a good ending.

## Digging Deeper:

Read Numbers 10:11-36.