

# In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#25 in Series] (Numbers 15–25) *Forty Years in the Wilderness: Part 10*  
*When the Right Thing Feels Wrong* – Numbers 20

**Sermon Outline** – October 18, 2015

## Children's Sermon: The Way of Jesus

- ❖ The **Way** of Jesus (John 14:6 Cf. Heb. 9:8; 10:20)
- ❖ Following the Way of Jesus...

### Acts 18:25–26

<sup>25</sup> He had been instructed in *the way* of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. <sup>26</sup> He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him *the way* of God more accurately.

1. The Way of Repentance & Faith (Cf. Luke 20:21-25)
2. The Way of Love (Cf. Matthew 22:37-40)

### Big Picture:

*In Spite of Righteous Judgment... Mercy*

Notes:

### From Kadesh to the Plains of Moab (20:1-22:1)

1. The Death of Miriam (1)
2. The Waters of Meribah (2-13)
3. Edom Refuses Israel Passage (14-21)
4. The Death of Aaron (22-29; Cf. Deut. 34 – Death of Moses)

### Deuteronomy 2:2–5a, 7b–8

Then the Lord said to me, <sup>3</sup> ‘You have been traveling around this mountain country long enough. Turn northward <sup>4</sup> and command the people, “You are about to pass through the territory of your brothers, the people of Esau (Edom), who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. So be very careful. <sup>5</sup> Do not contend with them, for I will not give you any of their land...

<sup>7</sup>...These forty years *the Lord your God has been with you*. You have lacked nothing.” <sup>8</sup> So we went on, away from our brothers, the people of Esau, who live in Seir... “And we turned and went in the direction of the wilderness of Moab.

## Why is this story included here?

1. A foil to better understand the conquest of Canaan.
2. Signs of Life... (Cf. Num. 21:4)

Foil: *n.* a person or thing that contrasts with and so emphasizes and enhances the qualities of another.

Notes:

### Respecting Authority in a Fallen World

#### Key Idea

*It is often difficult to obey God in a world that doesn't.*

### Messengers Sent to the King of Edom (14-21)

- Brothers... (Esau is \_\_\_\_\_'s brother)
- Hardships...Egypt...

<sup>16</sup> And when we cried to the Lord, he heard our voice and *sent an angel* (Cf. Ex. 14:19-20; Is. 63:11-12) and brought us out of Egypt. ...

- ... "Please let us pass through your land"
- **Edom:** 'No way', "lest we come out with the sword against you."
- **Israel:** 'We will pay a toll...'
- **Edom:** Assembled a strong show of force...

#### Bottom Line

**Edom** exercised its authority in an unloving manner. **Israel**, in submission to God respected Edom's harsh decision.

### Respect for God-Given, Ungodly Authority

#### Key Idea

*Respect for neighboring nations...*

*Respect for God's authority points at the righteousness of Jesus. (Cf. John 19:10-11 – Pilate)*

**Matt. 27:43** (HCSB)  
**He has put His trust in God;** let God rescue Him now—if He wants Him!...

### Titus 2:9-10 (HCSB)

<sup>9</sup> Slaves are to be submissive to their masters in everything, and to be well-pleasing, not talking back <sup>10</sup> or stealing, but demonstrating utter faithfulness, so **that they may adorn the teaching of God our Savior** in everything.

### 1 Peter 2:13-16, 18-19, 21-24

<sup>13</sup> **Be subject for the Lord's sake** to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. <sup>15</sup> **For this is the will of God**, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> **Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God**. ...

<sup>18</sup> Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. <sup>19</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, **mindful of God**, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ... <sup>21</sup> **For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example**, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued **entrusting himself to him who judges justly**. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, **that we might die to sin and live to righteousness**. By his wounds you have been healed.

### 1 Peter 3:12-15 (Wives – 3:1-6)

<sup>12</sup> For **the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous**, and **his ears are open to their prayer**. But **the face of the Lord is against those who do evil**."

<sup>13</sup> Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup> But **even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed**. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you**; yet do it with gentleness and respect...

#### Key Idea

*Our submission to Jesus means we make it our business to serve everyone, including every human authority.*