

“You Have Been Too Long at This Mountain” Latin Pastors October 2025

(Deu 1:1-8 NIV) "These are the words Moses spoke to all Israel in the desert east of the Jordan--that is, in the Arabah--opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth and Dizahab. {2} (It takes eleven days to go from Horeb to Kadesh Barnea by the Mount Seir road.) {3} In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses proclaimed to the Israelites all that the LORD had commanded him concerning them. {4} This was after he had defeated Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, and at Edrei had defeated Og king of Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth. {5} East of the Jordan in the territory of Moab, Moses began to expound this law, saying: {6} The LORD our God said to us at Horeb, **"You have stayed long enough at this mountain."** {7} Break camp and advance into the hill country of the Amorites; go to all the neighboring peoples in the Arabah, in the mountains, in the western foothills, in the Negev and along the coast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the Euphrates. {8} See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land that the LORD swore he would give to your fathers--to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob--and to their descendants after them."

I. “What is the worst enemy the church faces today?”

A. Some say it's Satan...

- 1. It's true, Satan is an enemy of the church**
- 2. He is called the adversary because he opposes God and the people of God**
- 3. But Satan is not the worst enemy of the church**

B. Many would say that the worst enemy of the church is liberalism.

- 1. Liberal theologians have infiltrated most the seminaries and bible colleges in the States and Europe**
- 2. For too long people have been polluted with the idea that the bible is not to be taken too literally**
- 3. Liberal thinkers have reasoned their way out of faith into the morass of human philosophies that only lead people to hopelessness and despair**
- 4. They have sucked out all the mystery and majesty of God**
- 5. They refuse to believe the miracles and any hint of the manifest presence of the Almighty in the workings of man and history.**

- 6. And so there are many denominational churches who believe in little and they have shrunk the Omnipotent Creator into a handy bite sized God that they can handle for an hour each week on Sunday's.**
- 7. But the simple fact is that most bible believing churches do not have much trouble with liberalism.**
- 8. I don't believe we would have anyone get up in our services and say that the first five books of the Bible are just a myth.**
- 9. We don't have anyone who says the creation story is just religious fabrication.**
- 10.No one denies that Jesus walked on the water or that He rose from the grave.**
- 11.No one gets up in our churches and denies that Jesus is the Son of God or that He is coming back again.**
- 12. No one here or in other bible believing churches say that the scriptures are not valid today.**
- 13.So liberalism is not the churches worst enemy.**

C. A.W. Tozer, in his book "Rut, Rot, or Revival says, "The treacherous enemy facing the church of Jesus Christ today is the dictatorship of the routine, when the routine becomes 'lord' in the life of the church.

- 1. Programs are organized and the prevailing conditions are accepted as normal.**
- 2. Anyone can predict next Sunday's service and what will happen.**
- 3. This seems to be the most deadly threat in the church today.**
- 4. When we come to the place where everything can be predicted and nobody expects anything unusual from God, we are in a rut.**
- 5. The routine dictates, and we can tell not only what will happen next Sunday, but what will occur next month and, if things do not improve, what will take place next year.**

6. Then we have reached the place where what has been determines what is, and what is determines what will be." [A. W. Tozer. Rut, Rot or Revival: The Problem of Change and Breaking Out of the Status Quo. Compiled by James L. Snyder (Camp Hill, Pennsylvania: Christian Pub. Inc., 1993] pp.3-4

D. But falling prey to this treacherous disease does not happen all at once, it happens in progressive Stages.

II. The first stage Tozer calls **the routine.**

A. “But too many are caught up in the routine, repeating without feeling, without meaning, without wonder and without any happy surprises or expectations.” [Tozer p. 5]

B. Tozer then says “We go one step further and come to what I call a **rut, which is bondage to the routine.” [Tozer p. 5]**

1. A rut is simply a grave with both ends kicked out.

C. The third stage is the most horrid of all it is **rot.**

1. “This is best explained when the psychology of non-expectation takes over and spiritual rigidity sets in, which is an inability to visualize anything better, a lack of desire for improvement.” [Tozer p. 6]

D. What sincerely scares me silly about this progression is how easily it can happen.

1. It can even happen when you are sincerely trying to add more people to the church. But to what end?

2. “More people to come and repeat the routine, without feeling, without meaning, without wonder, without surprise.” [pp. 6-7]

E. So what is the answer, “How do we change the church?”

1. Is it in changing the routine? **No.**

2. The church is made up of people, what ever kind of people they are “that is the kind of church it is – no worse and no better, no wiser, no holier, no more ardent and no more worshipful.

3. **To improve the church you must begin with individuals.” (p. 7)**

F. Moses says that it is an eleven-day journey to Mt. Sinai and they have been circling the wilderness forty years.

1. The problem is they were lost... but it was not because they didn’t have a map...

2. They had lost their sense of direction

3. It's a problem that manifests itself inwardly and outwardly

4. Let's talk about the inward and outward hindrances to moving on

III. The Inward Hindrances to Moving On

(Deu 1:3 NIV) "In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses proclaimed to the Israelites all that the LORD had commanded him concerning them."

I. Perhaps the greatest hindrance we have to moving on is a CONCERN FOR OUR COMFORT

A. For eleven months Israel had camped and lived at the foot of Mt. Sinai (Horeb).

1. Eleven months had allowed the people to settle into a life of ease.

2. They had grown accustomed to their surroundings and life was good.

3. In Amos 6:4-6 the prophet speaks to the nation of Israel, a nation that has become at ease and really had no intention of being otherwise.

4. He took them to task for being at ease in Zion.

(Amos 6:4-6 NIV) "You lie on beds inlaid with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves. {5} You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. {6} You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph."

5. If that is true of Israel how much more true is it of us in America today,

6. We live lives of unimaginable affluence and ease, while the unbelieving die all around us.

II. FEAR.

A. The greatest fear of all is the fear of the unknown.

1. We have grown comfortable with our dysfunction,

2. We are familiar with our problem and have figured out life, we don't want to chance moving on for fear of what it might be like

3. And when we get right down to it, our problem often is that we would rather hold on to what we have than trust our future to God.

4. We have a hard time moving on because we have a **hard time giving up control of our lives.**

5. But God says, **"You have dwelt long enough at this mountain."**

III. LIVING IN THE PAST

A. The past, both the good and the bad tend to keep us stuck in the present.

1. If we have failed in the past then we may allow the past to tell us what we can or cannot be.

2. We allow the past to destroy what God has for us in the present.

3. But God says, **"You have dwelt long enough at this mountain."**

4. The other extreme is that we tend to glorify the past, and the past tends to get grander in our imaginations the more time goes by.

5. Israel, like many of us, longed for the "good ole days."

6. But when you stop to consider the good ole days, if your honest, hardly any of us really want to go back there.

7. The good old things could be pretty rough too.

8. Some of you grew up in homes that did not have ELECTRICITY, RUNNING WATER, INDOOR TOILETS, AIR CONDITIONING

9. Do you really want to go back to those good ole days?

10. Some of you had to use an outhouse, would you trade your indoor plumbing for the outhouse?

11. And let me assure you that lingering in the past, however good or bad, is not worth the risk of God moving on without you.

12. But God says, **"You have dwelt long enough at this mountain."**

IV. MAINTAINING THE SAME ATTITUDES THAT CAUSED US TO FAIL OR FALL.

A. The children of Israel were only three days out of Egypt when the people began to complain, and here they were nearly forty years later and they are still complaining.

1. They allowed **A CRITICAL SPIRIT** to stall their spiritual growth.
2. Their love for truth grew weaker...
3. ... their hunger for people to be saved dissipated,
4. ...their praise turned into pity-parties.
5. Striving and bickering over small things;
6. ...Settling for mediocrity and staleness, all take center stage when a church gets side tracked by a critical spirit.
7. But God says, "**You have dwelt long enough at this mountain.**"

B. Sometimes the things that appear dangerous are actually much less hazardous than a safer-looking alternative.

1. Some people refuse to fly in commercial airliners, preferring rather to travel in an automobile.
2. But statistics tell us that traveling by commercial airline is 30 times safer than transportation by car.
3. Being pushed through the air several thousand feet above the earth by huge jet engines may not seem like it would be safer than being pushed along the highway by an automobile but it is.

C. The same is true of our journey through life.

1. Following the Lord into a new adventure may seem dangerous.
2. But in reality, it is the safest way to travel through life.

V. The Outward Manifestation

A. Break Camp and Advance (vv. 7-8)

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(Deu 1:7-8 NIV) "**Break camp and advance** into the hill country of the Amorites; **go to all the neighboring peoples** in the Arabah, in the mountains, in the western foothills, in the Negev and along the coast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the Euphrates. {8} See, **I have given you this land. Go in and take possession** of the land that the LORD swore he would give to your fathers--to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob--and to their descendants after them."

B. God has said "You have been at this mountain long enough."

1. If you have been a Christian any length of time, you should be prepared for battle.
2. You should be ready for service in His Kingdom.
3. Break Camp and Advance

C. So what is it that we are being told to do?

1. Like the people of Israel we are to "go in and possess the land."
2. That is that we are to **be actively pursuing the mission that Christ left us here to do**, that is to reach a lost and dying community for him.

D. So what is our problem?

E. The apostle Paul says,

(Eph 5:14 NIV) "for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "**Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.**"

1. Paul is writing to the church at Ephesus.
2. Not only is this a message to the church but it was written to one of the best churches in the New Testament
3. Our problem is that we have gone to sleep on the job.

F. We all know that being suddenly awakened can be **surprising.**

1. How many times have you gone to sleep extremely tired and when the alarm clock sounded, you were startled and thought "It can't be morning."

G. Being awakened suddenly can also be **disconcerting.**

1. Have you ever been suddenly awakened from an afternoon nap and not know where you are or what time of day it is...

H. Being awakened suddenly can also be **shaming**, if we have gone to sleep in a place or a time that is inappropriate.

1. You know like going to sleep in church!

I. We need to awaken and get busy, for God says ““You have been at this mountain long enough.”

VI. **How are we to move on? What are we to do?**

A. If you are stuck in a rut

1. If you have been circling the same wilderness for too long, then listen to what the Lord says to Moses

(Deu 1:7-8 NIV) "**Break camp and advance** into the hill country of the Amorites; **go to all the neighboring peoples** in the Arabah, in the mountains, in the western foothills, in the Negev and along the coast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the Euphrates. {8} See, **I have given you this land. Go in and take possession** of the land that the LORD swore he would give to your fathers--to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob--and to their descendants after them.""

I. **BREAK CAMP AND ADVANCE**

A. If we are going to move on we have to break camp

1. We have got to realize that we have been here too long and we have got to get moving again.
2. We have to pack up what will be useful...
3. Leave behind what has served its purposes
4. Discard what is dead weight and not necessary
5. We have got to break camp.

B. Take an inventory of all you have around you and begin the process of breaking camp

1. Maybe it's a habit that needs breaking that you know is holding you back from advancing in God
2. Maybe it's a sin that is holding you back... deal with it

a) Acknowledge it for what it is (stop with the excuses and justification... call sin "sin")

b) Confess it –

c) Repent of it

d) Seek accountability and prayer partners to help

3. Take inventory of the people you are hanging around with...

a) Sometimes people hinder you from moving ahead

(2 Cor 6:14-17 NIV) "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or **what fellowship** can light have with darkness? {15} What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? {16} What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." {17} "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.""

4. You may need to get the proverbial scissors out and cut the cord on some relationships in your life if you want to move on

C. It's time to break camp and ADVANCE

1. to move or go forward; proceed

2. to improve or make progress.

3. In order to advance you have to know where you are and where you need to go

4. You need vision which gives the direction

D. As a church we have to break camp and advance...

1. We have vision and direction

2. We are called to reach this community with the life-changing gospel in creative ways.

3. What can we do together to advance this goal?

4. Pastors, leaders, take an inventory of what you are doing and why your are doing it.

- a) **Ask yourself... is this ministry producing fruit?**
- b) **You may have some ministries that have been going on for years in the church or mission but it hasn't grown nor produced much fruit.... As the old preacher said... if the horse is dead, dismount! Stop beating a dead horse.**
- c) **Are people being saved, are people being disciplined?**
- d) **Are new people visiting**
- e) **Can you sense the spirit moving in all you do?**

5. We have been long enough at this mountain...

E. God told Moses and He is telling us

(Deu 1:7-8 NIV) "Break camp and advance into the hill country of the Amorites; **go to all the neighboring peoples ...**

- 1. We need to get the "go" back.**
- 2. We need to go to those around us and compel them to come to the house of the Lord**
- 3. We need to reach out so God can reach in...**

F. Go to all the neighboring peoples...

- 1. We need to go to our neighbors**
- 2. we need to reach out to the ones right around us**
- 3. What can we do to help our neighbors get connected with God and God's people?**

G. It's time, we God's people go in and possess the land God has given us!

H. And if we do we have the promise of His presence going with us to accomplish our mission.

Matthew 28:18–20 (NLT) — 18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. **19** Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **20** Teach these new

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disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

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How can we build a bridge to people who are lost?

I. Let's pray and seek the mind of the Lord

1. Let's seek God's wisdom and His strategy for touching people in our circles of influence
2. Begin to target people in prayer who you know are lost or unchurched.
3. God will show you what to do...
4. God will give us a strategy to move ahead so we can move from this mountain into the promises He has for us.

J. God is with those who go...

Deu.1:8 *NIV* {8} See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land that the LORD swore he would give to your fathers--to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob--and to their descendants after them.""

1. Jesus promised the same...

(Mat 28:19-20 *NIV*) "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely **I am with you always**, to the very end of the age.""

K. God has good things in store for us as His people

L. God wants us to move on in Him

M. Let's stop circling the same mountain and move on into the Promised Land