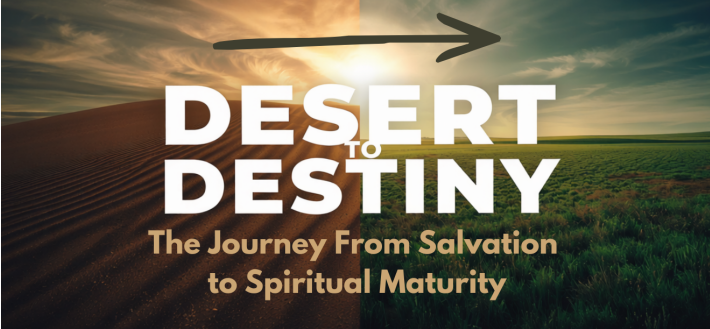




DESERT to DESTINY

The Journey From Salvation
to Spiritual Maturity

Let the Lord Have His way Numbers 27:12-23

Joshua to succeed Moses

Big Idea: Maturing Spiritually means seeing all that is in our lives as God sees them.

Introduction — a place for everything and everything in it's place

I. God turns the page [vv.12-14]

- A. Moses' life on earth is coming to an end
- B. Punishment for sin

II. Moses' Response [vv.15-17]

- A. Man of mature faith
- B. Not like a selfish child

III. God's Instruction [vv.18-21]

Application: Pray, select, develop, commission. God leads, provides, & supports.

Conclusion [John 10:10-11]

Application: Accept the gift of the good shepherd and receive eternal life. Apply the wisdom of God Almighty and know abundant life.

[Numbers 27:12-23] ¹² The Lord said to Moses, "Go up into this mountain of Abarim and see the land that I have given to the people of Israel. ¹³ When you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron was, ¹⁴ because you rebelled against my word in the wilderness of Zin when the congregation quarreled, failing to uphold me as holy at the waters before their eyes." (These are the waters of Meribah of Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.) ¹⁵ Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, ¹⁶ "Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation ¹⁷ who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord **may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.**" ¹⁸ So the Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him. ¹⁹ Make him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and you shall commission him in their sight. ²⁰ You shall invest him with some of your authority, that all the congregation of the people of Israel may obey. ²¹ And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the Lord. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the people of Israel with him, the whole congregation." ²² And Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua and made him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation, ²³ and he laid his hands on him and commissioned him as the Lord directed through Moses.

[John 10:10-11] ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Question, Reading, Challenge, and Prayer

Question: What is clearly not in its proper place in your life? What have you allowed in your life that has no business being a part of your life, aka sin? What good things have you allowed in your life but because it has not been put in its proper place are becoming bad? **Truth:** It is easier to mess up and get things out of place than it is to do it right.

Reading: Read Numbers 27:12-23. Consider these questions from Life Connections Study Bible. What can we learn about Moses from these verses? Why was it important for Moses to have a succession plan in place before his death? What steps are you taking to raise up future leaders in your family? What steps are you taking to raise up future leaders within your community and the church?

Challenge: Remember the glass jar opening demonstration. For Christians it's easy to agree the relationship with Jesus, the Son of God, is the most important, hence the softball. But what about the other objects and what they symbolize? Has something like work become more important than family? Identify your ping pong balls and put them in their proper place, maybe some need to be removed. Are you making the grains of rice too important?

Prayer: Ask God to give you His eyes, His wisdom, His Spirit, and support to move forward in faith, trusting Him with your life, for today and eternity.