

THE BIG IDEA: Moving keeps us from settling.The Take-Off

I need to kick off the message with a warning and some pictures.

The warning is that I'm going to show you some disturbing pictures. [*Stinkymeat pics*]

2 things: one, you're skipping lunch, and two, you can see the negative effects of things sitting still.

Teens and pre-teens (esp pre-teens), this is important for you to remember: things don't get better left alone: sit still for a really long time and you'll smell. Now, you may not have maggots, but you also won't have friends!

Even Directv understands this, and their latest ads encourage all of us not to be a Settler!

[Settler commercial]

This morning, we're going to look at a passage of scripture that reveals something about God that is esp pertinent to us: He doesn't want settlers, either, and He has a plan to keep us from settling

The plan is moving.

So, here's your Big Idea: moving keeps us from settling.

To see this played out, let's look at Number 9:15-23 and make some observations...

1. We move when He moves

- a. "Whenever"
- b. It doesn't matter when or why
- c. All that matters is that the cloud moved
- d. How many times have we seen Jesus move and yet we've stood still?
- e. This challenges our comfort

2. We stop when He stops

- a. As bad as staying is when God moves, it's just as bad to move when He isn't
- b. This challenges our trust
- c. There are seasons of waiting on Him and seasons of walking with Him, but what matters most in both of those seasons is watching Him
- d. Psalm 16:8; Hebrews 12:2

3. We want to be with Him

- a. Why make such a big deal about the cloud and the fire?
- b. Why go through such a hassle to move or stop when God does?
- c. One reason: we want to be with Him.
- d. This challenges our motives
- e. Our response to His commands reveals the condition of our heart
- f. John 14:15, 21, 23-24
- g. Moving isn't a duty to do for Jesus, but an opportunity to be with Jesus

4. His presence becomes our preference

- a. Remaining is all about relationship / 11x in 10 verses Jesus said remain (John 15:1-10)
- b. This challenges our passion
- c. True Love: I could live without you, but I don't want to!
- d. Moses knew the presence of God would make them different (Exodus 33:15-16)
- e. How many times have we "paid" hours in travel for minutes with someone we loved?

The Landing

Settling is safe, it's comfortable and it requires NO effort

How much effort does it take to grow weeds? Exactly! Satan knows if he can stop us, we'll become settlers.

But God knows this, too, and is committed to making sure we keep moving.

After all, moving keeps us from settling.

Let's pray.