

THE BIG IDEA: We're always on the move because we're passing through.

The Take-Off

Today, in our first Sunday in a new place, we're going to wrap up our 3 week series called "Moving Day"

For me, I can say that this series has been the perfect timing of God, not just because we're moving physically, but because God has really begun to move spiritually in our church.

For those of you joining us for the first time this morning, let me give you a quick recap:

In week 1, we learned that we are people who like to settle, and God's plan to keep us from settling is MOVING!

Last week we answered the question, "If we're on the move (and we are), what's life on the move look like?" The answer? A life given in service to Jesus and others. A life that is all about people and can get messy. The leaders served you by washing your feet - the beautiful feet that are carrying the gospel to messy places and messy people! In other words, God moves people to people.

On the last week of this series and the first week in this new space, we need to ask the question that has been asked for ages by children of all ages to parents wishing they had a better answer.

The four words that make every parent's head drop (unless you're driving!) and seem to get asked every other second from the back of the car.

[Shrek - Are we there yet?]

I think kids ask this question for 3 reasons, and all of them apply to the church today.

Let's start with the first reason that we ask, "Are we there yet?"

1. We're excited about the destination

- a. It's hard to be excited about the destination if we don't know what that destination is
- b. Sometimes we think the destination is something here, on this planet
 - If we could get a new job, a new home, meet a new person, find a new church
 - In and of themselves, none of those are bad, but none of them are the destination
 - Churches can fall for this trap, too. A new building, a certain number of people attending, a certain amount of money in the offering.
 - But look what Hebrews 13:14 says / NOTHING on this planet is what we're traveling to
- c. So what is the destination? We said last week that God leads us to places to get us to people, so let me show you where and who he's leading us to
- d. Check out Revelation 5:9-10
 - The place is heaven at the throne
 - Look at the PEOPLE Jesus purchased! Every tribe, language, people, nation
 - This has been God's plan from the beginning - Gen. 12:2-3 - through Abraham ALL nations are blessed
- e. The places we go don't matter if the people in them don't match the crowd in heaven
- f. Matthew 6:10 - here as in heaven
- g. A beautiful mosaic in ONE PLACE with ONE VOICE worshipping ONE KING!
- h. That is a destination that should excite us!

2. We're tired of the journey

- a. Have you been on a road trip? The excitement wears off and get replaced by frustration!
- b. The family that you'll be playing with at the end is the family that you want to strangle on the way!
- c. Dads are yelling, "Don't make me pull this car over!"
- d. Let's face it, the journey can get tiring (and so can the people we're riding with)!
- e. It's natural to get tired OF the journey, but the Holy Spirit gives us supernatural power ON the journey!
 - Acts 1:8 - the Spirit helps us MOVE toward others
 - Galatians 5:22-23 - the Spirit helps us LOVE others
- f. Again, you can see that the picture God painted in Gen. 12:2-3 happens only on the move
- g. God told Abraham to leave where he was and go where he didn't know (Gen. 12:1)
- h. That walk of faith can wear us down - don't feel bad for that. Just use it as a guardrail to remind you that the end is worth it!

3. We've forgotten about the arrival

- a. Do you remember as a kid feeling like you'd never get there? At that point, "are we there yet?" almost becomes a cry of desperation, doesn't it?
- b. We feel stuck; we wonder if we'll ever get there!
- c. The Bible is full of those moments, too, when God's children cried from the backseat:
 - Habakkuk 1:2 / How long, LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen?
 - Psalm 35:17 / How long, Lord, will you look on? Rescue me from their ravages, my precious life from these lions.
 - Psalm 80:4 / How long, LORD God Almighty, will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people?
 - Psalm 13:1 / How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
- d. That's where we can get to as a church, wondering if we'll ever actually get to the destination
- e. That's where you may be as a person, feeling stuck in the car on a rat race with no end in sight
- f. But we WILL arrive, and Revelation 21:1-5 describes it
- g. When we arrive, we'll realize that the move prepared us for the arrival!

The Landing

So what do we do between where we've been and where we're going? How do we handle the "are we there yet?" moments?

We remember. Listen to how David handled it in Psalm 13:6 - I will praise because He has been good to me

1 Samuel 7:12 - Here I raise my Ebenezer because to THIS POINT the Lord has helped me

Memorials are like mile markers; they remind us that we're not where we were, and not where we're going, but we've gotten safely to where we are, and that's because of a good Father who is moving us home

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The answer to "are we there yet?" is no and kind of.

We may not be the total picture of Revelation 5:9-10, but we are becoming more and more like it along the way.

We're further than we were even though we may not be home just yet.

And so here - along the way, on the move, passing through - we raise our Ebenezer, because while we may not know when the journey ends, we know that to this point the Lord has brought us!

And that's all we need to know.

Let's pray.