

**NEWS AND VIEWS**  
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full  
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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*The LORD our God spoke to us at Horeb, saying, “You have stayed long enough at this mountain.”  
(Deuteronomy 1:6)*

You know that you’ve stayed too long at a friend’s house when they bring you a razor to shave off a beard that you can’t ever recall growing! You know you’ve stayed too long at work when you forget where your car is parked...and realize that they’ve built a new parking garage you’ve never seen! You know you’ve stayed too long at the trash dump when you’re attracted to what other people are throwing away and don’t notice the smell any more! It’s possible to stay too long at one place for more than one reason.

Some of our most painful trials come in the midst of major life changes. I often wonder what God is doing in the midst of change. I am not comfortable with change. I am quite content to be settled in some routine. Predictable. Safe. I never enjoy the trials that change seems to bring about. But often I am amazed at how differently I see some things after I have left one place in my life for another. The view is altered when the vantage point is changed.

The most exciting times in my life have been in times when I didn’t know what God was up to and what was coming next. The times that God has stepped in to restore a chaotic situation into an orderly one are too numerous to count. It is in times such as these that I have been forced to depend on Him and trust Him as never before. God delights in the times that His children leave everything to Him and move when He says to move. In the passage before us to consider God’s people were ready to move whether they wanted to or not.

After a long time of wandering, God’s people had lived in the wilderness trusting Him for their very existence. But so often in human nature we want to stop and get comfortable. We want to build a place to settle down. A safe place. God has different plans for His people. He wishes for us to be a mobile strike force, ready to go where He wants us to and be willing to leave when He calls. Let’s look at some lessons from the passage today:

**I. WHEN WE STAY SO LONG AT THE MOUNTAIN WE TEND TO FORGET WHAT IT'S LIKE IN THE VALLEY.** The ultimate reality is living with God forever. This is what keeps us focused on the mountain. The immediate reality is living in a fallen world. Here’s where the mountaintop lessons are applied. The valley is the laboratory for proving mountaintop theories.

**II. WE ARE PREPARED FOR VALLEY DWELLING BY OUR EXPERIENCE AT THE MOUNTAIN.** On the mountain we are given the great vision. We can see the clearest from that great height. On the mountain we are encouraged in our mission. The deepest valleys look pretty small from up there. On the mountain we encounter God’s view. We have a fresh understanding of His “highness”. In the valley we embody Him. We have a new appreciation for his “lowliness”.

**III. WE STAY LONG ENOUGH WHEN GOD GIVES US A BURDEN FOR THOSE “IN THE VALLEY”.** When God shows us His heart for valley people, He invites us to join Him in His work there. We cannot stay on the mountain and go with God into the valleys. We can take the good news of the high mountain into the deepest depths of the darkest valleys.

We’ll be on the mountain soon enough...but we don’t belong there just yet. There is still work to do for the Most High God in the lowest of earthly places. If you have stayed too long on the mountain come on down to earth and walk like Jesus walked, living like He lived. That would be an exciting change for humanity at large and us in particular.

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam