

## The Land Between

**Intro:** People ask: "Where does a sermon come from?"

Couple months ago driving and listening to a CD Jeff Manion: The Land Between

Thesis: Egypt >>> Promised Land: God uses the land between for spiritual transformation

They Left Egypt a rag tag group of beaten down and beaten up slaves...Went into the Land a Victorious Conquering Army!  
The transformation took place in...The Land Between

As I listened a passage from NT popped into my mind and as I reflected on it the entire series came into focus

**1Cor 10:11** "These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us..."

God USES the Land Between for us as He did for Israel, then we need to LEARN from them...that's the point!

All the things that they went through TEACH us something...so lets look at them and learn Lessons God wants to teach us

~Positive

~Negative

~Good

~Bad

As we walk with them and learn from them we are transformed...trained...equipped...ready to serve God and others

This series is about TRANSFORMATION...The process of BECOMING what God created you to be...Being Prepared

~Not Easy

~Not Painless

~Sometimes Pain IS the Process

~Not Fast

~Not w/o perils and pitfalls

~Sometimes Time is the only option

SO then, lets do this...Let's Pack our Bags for the Journey...and Learn Together some Principles that will Guide us in

The Land Between 1 Cor. 9:24-10:13 Pg 811

### 1. The Stakes are High: You REALLY Lose Something of Significance if You Don't Successfully Navigate the Land Between.

- We fool ourselves and say: God is going to do what He's going to do...I will get there...Cant lose salvation
- True: But you can lose His blessing in your life! You can Stay in desert. Spiritual life Dry, Dull, Harsh, Difficult
- Cost of not learning and growing is very high: You HEAR about God's blessing....never experience it personally!

Illus: After 23 years here at RTBC I see it regularly...and it breaks my heart every time

At mall, or downtown, in a store: See someone that ONCE was a key part of Church

But over time...they drifted away: Talk: Marriage...Family...Spiritual life in shambles

Sometimes bitter and angry...sometimes cold and indifferent...Shipwrecked...Stuck in spiritual desert

1Cor 9:24: Paul uses image of running in Olympics...being Disqualified:

To be unacceptable to receive the prize...to be unworthy of prize

Olympic Skater...Wrong Lane...Weightlifter with performance enhancing drugs...Swimmer

~Sometimes You did it ~Sometimes Others ~Sometimes just circumstances

Doesn't really matter when you are wrecked on the side of the road!

The Stakes are HIGH...and we have to get this right!

### 2. It Isn't What Happens to you but How You RESPOND that Determines the Outcome in Your life.

1Cor 10:1-5 5 times ALL

- Everyone walks the land between, No one is exempt
- Just/unjust
- Same issues come to everyone...but People respond very differently

Illus: Ten went into the promised land ALL SAW SAME THINGS!!! Two brought Good Report!

Illus: Marriage in trouble; Health Issues; Lose Job, Savings, House,

~Some People get sidetracked...Bitter, Angry

~Others are slowed down...but not wrecked...Pick themselves up, and turn to God and say...what next

- The PURPOSE of the Land Between is to teach us the Lessons we NEED!

~TRUST God...and walk with Him! He is in charge

~Day by Day Just enough

~Look at HIM, not Circumstances...

Between 5-10 Critical lessons....SIMPLE...But So Profound!

Illus: Manna...God gives you just enough for the day...Easy to preach...Lowest Cash Flow position of year...Hurricane..Payroll...Mortgage Payment...

### 3. A LOT of People Miss God's Best: The Casualty Rate is VERY High!

1Cor 10:5    Nevertheless                      Not Pleased                      Scattered

Illus: Klennex box

600,000 MEN    2 above the age of 18 went in! .000003 = Three Millionths of one Percent!

Master of Understatement! All the population of AA County...Plus 75k more...and only TWO entered the promised land!

We have and Advantage:

- The Indwelling Holy Spirit...but they had some too! Cloud, Pillar, Miracles
- Word of God written
- Roadmap THEY left for us...DO this...DON'T do that!

Even with all of those things, Remember...This is difficult!

This is a Risky Endeavor! At the End of the Day even Moses fell short! Deut 32:48ff and 34:1-6

### 4. God Always Provides a Way Through To the Other Side. 1 Cor 10:6-10

- Examples: Good and Bad!
  - ~Some to Avoid!                      If 599,998 failed for specific reasons...might want to know what they are
  - Idolatry                      (Heart) Set your hearts on things above
  - Immorality                      (Body) Submission to God's direction
  - Grumbling                      (Attitude!) Do you trust His Goodness?
- ~Some To Embrace! If ONLY Two made it...Might want to learn from them!
  - Joshua                      (Hang out with God)
  - Caleb                      (Sold out to God)
- Bulk of the series is going to be looking at what they did...and learning from their example! (Pattern) Think....MAP!

### 5. God is Always Present Every Step of the Way! 1 Cor 10:11-13

- God is Faithful! Cloud in Day...Pillar of Fire at night...He was always with them.
- Most often repeated promise in the bible? I will be with you and He is!
- You and I are not in this Alone Phil  
He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion  
Here is my prayer...Lets do this the EASY way!

### CONCL:

For the next 8 or 9 Weeks I want you to walk with me through the Land Between

Come and learn how to navigate the land SUCCESSFULLY! It can be done

As we get ready...Do this.

<on your card: X marks the spot

<indicate the kind of journey you have been on

<name the ONE thing that holds you back ID it

Pray: Father...I know I need your help to go forward spiritually. I want everything You have for me...but I need to confess that I have been stuck somewhere alone the way. Help me know what I need to do...teach me...show me...help me do whatever I need to do to move forward. I commit right now that when you show me...I will be obedient to follow the path you lay out for me. Help me become what YOU created me to be...and help me experience your BEST in my life. AMEN