

"THE DECISION POINT"

Numbers 10:29-33

Ronald Wayne: 3rd founder of Apple/10% of company. Sold for \$800. Would be worth over \$100 billion

I. THE INVITATION

A. God arranges things in life – in advance

1. Hobab became connected to the purposes of God through his son-in-law Moses
 - a. You are in your church by the plans of God
2. But Moses gives an invitation for something larger: **V29** *come with us to the land God promised*
 - a. You could be a part of God establishing his rule in the land: Helping other people
3. This is what God does to men: He calls them – and He invites them to a purpose
 - a. **Mark 1:17** *Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."*
 - b. That purpose is larger than anything you could plan for yourself
 1. To change people's lives: *Set them free from sin*
 2. To rescue people from hell: *Forever!*

B. Moses says there is a reward in answering the call of God

1. **V29** *Come with us, and we will treat you well; for the LORD has promised good things to Israel.*
 - a. The thrill of the adventure of God's will: *You will find it*
 1. *I remember driving over the hill in Launceston/flying into Johannesburg*
2. There is the reward of satisfaction: *Knowing that you did God's will*
 - a. *Being a part of people's lives/destinies/eternities...*

II. THE REFUSAL

A. But Hobab is like many men

1. When the call comes – they refuse
 - a. **V30** *And he said to him, "I will not go, but I will depart to my own land and to my relatives."*
 1. My own land: More comfortable/safe
 2. My relatives: What is familiar/known
2. What is it that may keep you from responding to God's will?
 - a. Money? b. Personal plans? c. Fear? **So many men do refuse the call**
 1. **Matthew 19:22** *But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*

B. But Moses challenges his refusal: *That's not OK!*

1. **Numbers 10:31** *So Moses said, "Please do not leave, inasmuch as you know how we are to camp in the wilderness, and you can be our eyes.*
 - a. We need you! *You know where water is. You know where danger is.*
2. Life is not just about you: *People's lives – and eternities hang in the balance if you say no*
 - a. **Ezekiel 22:30** *So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.*
 1. People's lives will be destroyed if you say no
 2. People will be in hell if you say no
3. We will answer to God for our calling: *B/C it affects other people!*

III. THE PRESENCE

A. It seems like Hobab changed his mind and did wind up going:

1. **V33** *So they departed from the mountain of the Lord...*
 - a. There was rejoicing in Moses and the people when he said yes
 - b. God is pleased when we say yes
 - c. Angels rejoice when we say yes: *They know people will be saved*
2. But there is a great promise: When you say yes – the presence of God goes with you
 - a. **V33** *the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them for the three days' journey, to search out a resting place for them.*
 1. Goes before you to prepare the way/to prepare people
 - b. I can't promise it will be easy/won't be scary: *But I can promise God will go with you!*
3. Hobab almost missed his chance/missed his calling: *What about you?*