

Deuteronomy 2:3

'You have circled this mountain long enough. Now turn north.'

What blessed words those must have been when the Lord spoke to Moses after spending forty years in the wilderness. Can you imagine what Moses must have thought? First of all, he was pronounced a death sentence as a baby at birth, because Pharaoh had decreed that all Hebrew male babies were to be killed. Then he was raised in Pharaoh's own home, by his very daughter. Forty years later he ran away to Midian, which was on the back side of the desert because he killed an Egyptian for striking a Hebrew. Another forty years pass and God calls Moses to go back to Egypt to deliver them from the slavery they were under. After ten plagues, the people are delivered and they head out into the wilderness. When they arrived at the Promised Land they sent out spies to see what lay ahead. Ten of those spies returned with a bad report, and the children of Israel went once again back to the wilderness.

Only after they had sojourned for forty years; did Moses hear those words, which must have echoed in his heart, **'You have circled this mountain long enough. Now turn north.'** I can only imagine what he must have been feeling when the Lord said, "OK Moses, long enough, bring them home." Moses is a man who is a standard for any of us who are facing trials or tribulations. It is certainly hard enough to bare the punishment for our own faults and acts of stupidity; but it is so much harder to endure them for the choices of another. That was one of the very first things the military taught me and the men I was in boot camp with. If one messed up, then we all paid for it. But Moses spent forty years of his life paying for the choices of the people that he helped deliver from Egypt. If you think life has anything to do with fairness, then read the story of this great patriarch's life.

The lesson that must be learned by each of us, is to endure; even when we are made to endure for the choices of another. Suffering seems to be the proving ground for the Kingdom of Heaven. It is there that our salt is tested. Look with me at **I Peter 4:12-13**, ¹² **Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;** ¹³ **but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.** When does this scripture say that we get to rejoice, at the revelation of His glory! Beloved, years ago the Lord showed me personally a very exciting insight. He told me that before a breakthrough takes place, three things happen; Faith, Obedience and Timing. Faith is a supernatural act, Obedience a choice, but the Timing of God; none of us have any control over.

One thing I am confident of, if you and I are faithful to the end through obedience, then God will never be late! No matter what the clock or calendar says; God is never late. What greater honor than to endure the full measure that is before us, only then to hear our Blessed Redeemer call out, **'You have circled this mountain long enough. Now turn north.'**

Church I bless you to endure to the end, in Jesus name!!