



## Sermon Discussion Questions

April 19, 2026

Exodus 23:20-33

Success that Honors God

### Opening Questions

1. What decisions are you currently facing that made this sermon particularly relevant to you? How does thinking about "the next right move" resonate with your current season of life?
2. The pastor asks: "Are you right now on a God-honoring path that will bring you to a Christ-honoring future?" How would you honestly answer that question?

### God's Grace and Presence

1. In Exodus 23:20-23, God promises to send His angel before the people—not just beside them, but **\*\*in front of them\*\***. What difference does it make to know God goes before you rather than just accompanying you?
2. The sermon emphasizes that "success begins with God's grace." How does this counter our natural tendency to rely on our own efforts? Where in your life do you most need to trust God's grace right now?
3. God promises to bring His people "to the place I have prepared" (v. 20). How does this connect to Jesus' words in John 14:2-3? What comfort does this offer you?

### Obedience: Running Toward and Away

1. The pastor describes obedience as both **\*\*running toward\*\*** God's ways and **\*\*running from\*\*** worldly patterns. Which is harder for you personally—pursuing what God calls you to, or fleeing what He warns against?
2. Looking at verses 24-25, God commands His people not to bow down to the gods of the nations or adopt their practices. What are the "gods" of our culture today that Christians are tempted to bow to?
3. The sermon warns against accepting "a God that requires so little" and is "soft around the edges." Why is this view of God so attractive? What's dangerous about it?

## **Patience and Process**

1. **"Little by little"** (v. 30) describes how God would give Israel the land. Share an example from your own life where you've seen God work gradually rather than instantly.
2. Why do you think God often chooses slow, incremental growth rather than immediate transformation? What might we miss if everything happened overnight?
3. The pastor says sanctification happens "little by little—one brick at a time." What specific area of growth are you currently working on where you need to embrace this patient approach?

## **Discernment and Traps**

1. Verse 33 warns that serving other gods "will surely be a snare to you." The pastor describes traps as things that look inviting but capture us. What are some modern "traps" that look good but lead to spiritual danger?
2. First Peter 5:8 describes the devil prowling like a lion seeking to devour. How can we cultivate the sober-mindedness and watchfulness Peter calls for without becoming fearful or paranoid?

## **Personal Application**

1. Review the four main points:
  - 1) Success begins with God's grace
  - 2) Success develops through obedience
  - 3) Success requires patience
  - 4) Success is lost without discernment

Which of these four do you most need to focus on right now? Why?

2. What is one practical step you can take this week to pursue a "God-centered plan" for your future? (Consider: prayer, Scripture reading, church involvement, accountability, or addressing a specific area of disobedience)

## **Closing Reflection**

The pastor prays for "discernment" every night with his wife. What would it look like for you to regularly pray for discernment in your life? Who could pray this with you or for you?