

From the Pastor's Desk...

Playing It Smart

“..God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine company, although that was shorter. For God said, “if they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt” ,....



--Deuteronomy 13:17

When planning a trip, one does not usually aim to hit the most difficult routes. Initial enthusiasm and an adventurous spirit usually give way to practical wisdom.

Escaping Egypt was just too incredible of a plan, but there would be real challenges. God's people might have sailed through the pre-test, but the real test was formidable. Excessive rebelling earned them excessive wandering in the desert for 40 years. They just could not give an accurate report of the Promised Land.

Independence though brilliant, often bears the harsh reality that one must figure things out. God was leading them out of Egypt, and chose the route. He knew that facing the Philistines right now, might cause their faith to sink. So, God took them on a longer route that brought them through the desert and up to the edge of the Red Sea.

We can imagine some consternation the people may have had. Why is God leading us this way? Why are we heading right into a tight spot? But God always has a plan! The Red Sea parted by God's powerful hand, and we saw His plan fully revealed.

He knows what we can handle, and what we cannot. He knows how to get the timing right in our lives. He knows what routes can overwhelm us, just like taking the people through the Philistines at that particular time could have been spiritual disaster. Sometimes its better to be smart, than to be overzealous.

College basketball is ready with March Madness to show us drama and excitement on the hardwood. Fans fill out their brackets and anticipate a wild and crazy outcome. But a walk with God, though adventurous yes, is often balanced by the peaceful streams of refreshing water. We enter Lent with that calm balance of the Master's hand. As the sheep hear His voice, we are calmed, we are led, and we are filled with wisdom.

As we heed His voice,

Pastor Chris