

SERIES: MOSES

TITLE: Snake on a Stick

SPEAKER: Kip McCormick

DATE: August 7-8, 2020

“God is calling us to get focus off our circumstances and put it on Jesus.” – Kip McCormick

SNAKE ON A STICK

1. With all the uncertainty created over the last six months as a result of COVID-19, have you found yourself complaining more than normal? If so, and if willing, please share a go-to complaint that you find yourself repeatedly grumbling about.

2. Read Numbers 21:5. Pastor Kip said in Hebrew “spoke against” can be translated as “complain against.” Why do you think the Israelites, having so recently and so often seen God’s amazing power throughout their miraculous escape from Egypt, could complain so much?

3. The story studied in this week’s teaching wasn’t the first time the Israelites grumbled and complained about their circumstances in the desert. It was the 11th and last time they complained. But it was the first time Moses wasn’t given warning about the impending discipline. Referring to Numbers 21:6, how did God discipline them in this situation?

4. Have you ever come face to face with a snake? What was the result – good, bad, funny? What was the impact of the snakes on the Israelites?

5. How did the people respond to God’s discipline? See Numbers 21:8. What is your natural response to discipline? Read 1 John 1:9. As followers after Christ, what should our response be?

6. Referring to Numbers 21:8-9, what was God’s remedy to the Israelites’ repentance? Why do you suppose the LORD instructed Moses to “make a snake” and put it on the pole? What’s another biblical story involving a snake that comes to mind?

7. Moses prayed for the forgiveness of the Israelite and God provided a way for them to be healed – if they simply looked at the snake lifted up on the pole. Reading John 3:14-16, who does this point to? What is it an illustration of?

8. God's remedy in Numbers 21 was for the people to just look and they were healed. In John 3 it is simply to believe. What does this mean to you? What should be our objective? Where should our eyes be focused?
9. Ironically, over time after the story of the Snake on a Stick and hundreds of years before God put Jesus in the position of the snake as He was lifted high on the cross, the Israelites took their eyes off the objective (God) and put their eyes on the snake – 2 Kings 18:4(b). They got off course and we are prone to do the same thing today. What habits are you cultivating in your life today to keep your eyes on God?
10. What is your response to Pastor Kip's closing challenge when he asked, "What are you looking at to save you? Where are you going for hope?" Please share.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. What would you like to talk about from this message that hasn't already been discussed?
2. What is one significant truth from this message that you are taking away with you this week?
3. How can this group be praying for you this week?

"Dig into God's Word. Open your heart to what God is doing in your life. Most importantly, stay focused on the objective – Jesus. And, don't lose hope. My Redeemer lives!" – Kip McCormick

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