

February 26 — Organization 101

READ

Leviticus 27:1-34

Numbers 1:1-54

Numbers 1:2, *“Take a census of the whole Israelite community by their clans and families, listing every man by name, one by one.”*

THINK

Organization pros say the first step in getting organized is knowing what you have. We often discover we have more than what we realized and rediscover things we’ve forgotten about. And so it was with the Israelites! After leaving Egypt so abruptly, it was time to organize this group of former slaves into the nation of Israel. God commissioned Moses and Aaron to perform a census of this nomadic group crossing the desert to the Promised Land.

This census revealed a couple of things. They discovered just who and how many were among them within each established tribe, and they rediscovered that they were a part of the blessing God promised to Abraham. They had grown from a family of 70 into a great and mighty nation of a million people, and they would soon rediscover that they didn’t have to fear the battles ahead.

There are times when we all need to organize, to regroup. We need to discover the blessings in our lives that we weren’t seeing and rediscover the relationship with God that we may have forgotten to cherish. It’s in that relationship that we find we are mighty in His power, and we don’t have to fear.

PRAY

Heavenly Father, Thank You for Your presence in my life. Because You are a God of organization, I am confident that You have my back even amid life’s uncertainties. Help me walk in confidence as I share You with others. Amen.

February 27 — God of Order

READ

Numbers 2:1-3:51

Numbers 2:1, *"Then the Lord gave these instructions to Moses and Aaron..."*

THINK

In today's reading in the book of Numbers, there are a lot of, well... Numbers! And, again, we find ourselves at a familiar precipice: What does all of this information have to do with us? What can we really glean from the organization of the Israelite camps and Levite's census? The principle we can glean is that God is a God of order, and He desires for us to live within His prescribed structure and framework.

Wherever chaos reigns, God is not! When our lives stray from His commands — when disorder, pride, or rebellion rear their ugly heads — we're not walking within the will and the way of God. And like a car with poor alignment, we get off track, swerving and careening into potential danger. If we're not careful, we may crash in a big way. That's why God gives us protective verses such as:

- 1 Corinthians 14:33, "For God is not a God of confusion but peace."
- 1 Corinthians 14:40, "All things should be done decently and in order."
- Matthew 6:33, "Seek first His kingdom, and His righteousness and all things will be added to you."

When we heed God's instruction and stay within the lanes of His order, our lives will be fully functioning and hitting on all cylinders. These guidelines and guardrails don't restrict us; they free us to fully experience life!

What is currently disordered in your life? What do you need to surrender to God and humbly submit to His will?

PRAY

God, Thank You for Your order and protective commands. Help me live within Your will and walk within Your way. Then, and only then, will I be ready to put the throttle down and fully experience the life ahead. Amen.

February 28 — Protective Measures

READ

Numbers 4:1-5:31

Numbers 5:11-15, *“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Speak to the Israelites and say to them: If a man’s wife goes astray and is unfaithful to him so that another man has sexual relations with her, and this is hidden from her husband and her impurity is undetected ... and if feelings of jealousy come over her husband and he suspects his wife and she is impure — or if he is jealous and suspects her even though she is not impure — then he is to take his wife to the priest...’”*

THINK

Have you ever noticed that you can’t say the word “jealousy” without saying, “lousy?” Whether unfounded or based on reasonable suspicion, jealousy IS lousy, and it always comes back to bite! God takes such matters seriously — especially within marriage. It must be dealt with. Otherwise, like an open wound, it can fester and cause a world of hurt.

In today’s reading, God gives a system to prove or disprove jealous feelings and orchestrate truth within marriage relationships. His instructions were aimed at the potentially adulterous wife, but no matter who was at fault — by either the act of infidelity or the sin of jealousy — the issue had to be settled by a priest.

Why would God give such explicit instructions? Because He knows marriage is foundational to our lives. No wonder it’s said, “So goes the marriage, so goes the family; so goes the family, so goes our world!” That’s why God is so clear about protecting the purity and sanctity of man and wife.

Regardless of our sins, God wants us to confess and come clean, to bring to light anything or anyone He brought together in a sacred covenant. Although we no longer need to have a priest perform a ceremony to rid marriage of any impurity, we do need to address underlying divisions. When we do, we can move forward, united as one flesh in Christ. It not only benefits us but strengthens those within our family and sphere of influence. Because united we stand and divided — we fall.

PRAY

Heavenly Father, Thank You for providing protective measures to secure marital relationships. You are a great God, and I want to live within Your guidelines and guardrails to live out Your best! Amen.

March 1 — Blessed

READ

Numbers 6:1-27
Numbers 10:1-36

Numbers 6:24-26, *“May the LORD bless you and protect you. May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. May the LORD show you His favor and give you His peace.”*

THINK

Who doesn't want to be blessed? We say, "Bless you!" when we sneeze, even! But what does that truly mean? To be blessed? When thinking of God's blessings, we often think of job promotions, making a school sport's team, or newborn babies — but His blessings often look different than we might expect!

In today's reading, God gives a specific prayer for Moses and the priests to bless the Israelites that begins with: "May the Lord bless you and protect you." God loves to bless us, and He knows what's best for our lives. Yet, we often think we're in the driver's seat and that we *know* what's best. Disappointment sets in when God's blessings don't align with our timing or what we might have originally imagined. But God's true blessing is higher and greater than anything we could ever ask for or imagine. It's within the waiting, within the step of faith, within the trust that such wealth is found. God blesses patience, the willingness to wait and believe in Him.

This week, trust that God is in control. He desires to bless you and use you for His good. Even when His blessings look different than expected, thank Him and trust that He knows what's best!

PRAY

Dear God, Thank You for Your constant blessings. Help me trust that You are in control and know what is best for my life. Amen.

March 2 — Eyes of Faith

READ

Numbers 11:1-13:33

Numbers 13:26-28, 30, “They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community ... There they reported to them ... and showed them the fruit of the land. They gave Moses this account: ‘We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.’

Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, ‘We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.’”

THINK

Finally, after leaving Egyptian slavery and traveling around the desert, the Israelites had arrived at the brink of the Promised Land — and they found it just as it had been described! A land flowing with milk and honey!

But despite everything they had seen God do, regardless of the miracles and power He had displayed time and again, ten of the twelve who went to scout out the land failed to have faith that God would provide a way for them to take possession of it! Only Caleb and Joshua had eyes of faith, believing that God had led them there, and with His help, they would be able to overcome the powerful people and large and fortified cities!

What enemy or obstacle stands before you today? When you’re faced with a challenge that makes you think, “There’s no way!” take a step back and reflect on what you’ve seen God do. Or if your faith is new, find stories of His faithfulness in the Bible, and ask other believers around you. Face the future with eyes of faith — God can and WILL bring you through!

PRAY

Father, Give me the faith of Caleb, faith that trusts in You and Your power, no matter what everyone else is saying or thinking. I ask that today you would help me trust You specifically with _____. It’s more than I can handle, but I know it’s not too much for You! Amen.

March 3 — Believe, and Go with God!

READ

Numbers 14:1-15:41

Numbers 14:9, *“Do not rebel against the Lord... the Lord is with us.”*

THINK

When we face overwhelming trials, and our world gets turned upside down, we might question God’s presence in our lives. We might even take it a step further and shake our fist at Him and blame Him for our bleak situation. “Why me, God? Where are You in my greatest hour of need? If You won’t intervene, then I’ll just do it my way!”

The Israelites did this when they learned that giants lived in fortified cities within the Promised Land. They rebelled and chose NOT to trust God and His promises. Due to their lack of belief, the Israelites were punished and sent to wander the desert for forty more years. Had they just believed — though they would have had difficulties to face — God would have led them just had He’d led them out of slavery and through the wilderness. Now, their inheritance would have to wait!

Once we recognize our need for God and choose to trust in His promises, humility sets in. Then we’re in a workable mindset that allows us to approach our Lord with receptivity — a willingness to listen to His voice, patiently wait for His perfect timing, and trust Him to see us through the valley we’re facing. With God, we can overcome all things!

PRAY

Thank You, Lord, for Your presence in my life. Forgive me for my impatience and mistrust in You. Please walk with me through this storm and help me overcome it. Amen.

March 4 — Korah's Rebellion

READ

Numbers 16:1-18:32

Numbers 16:10, *"[God] has brought you and all your fellow Levites near himself, but now you are trying to get the priesthood too."*

THINK

The line between goals and greed can be very thin. Korah found himself on the wrong side of this line, staging a coup after growing dissatisfied with his position tending the tabernacle. Filled with pride, he argued that because all Israelites were God's chosen people, he shouldn't have to submit to Moses' authority — even though it was God-given.

It is not inherently bad to want to achieve or to lead. However, it is important to recognize that God has placed us where we are for a reason. God wants us to respect the authority figures placed in our lives and serve Him above our personal ambitions.

Are you a Korah? Are you placing pride and selfish ambition above God? Or, like Moses, are you faithful in carrying out His commands? Whichever camp you are in currently, don't let greed smear the line between achieving what you want and being where God wants you today. He always has a plan and purpose, knowing what's best for your life!

PRAY

Lord Jesus, I want You to be my only ambition. I submit to Your authority. Help me live out Your will for my life. Amen.