

# Moving House

There was a time in my life when it was unusual for me to be in the same place two nights running... I would wake up in the morning and wonder where i was. It was quite unsettling.

Then I married Ann we settled down where i have lived for the last 40 years close to this church which i have been part of for 63 years. But my work as a driver still meant i was constantly moving.

Spiritually too, i feel i have been constantly on the move... on this spiritual journey of faith... not in an unhelpful way, but constantly experiencing in many ways God's faithfulness to us.

It's almost like being a spiritual Bedouin. A tent dweller. The Bedouin Tent dwellers have lived this way for thousands of years... And early in the Bible we encounter Abraham.... And his descendants. They too were tent dwellers.

Much of the action in the Old testament took place in tents. Before the Jerusalem temple was built God himself dwelt among his people... in a Tent.

*Isaiah 54: 2-3 Hybrid. "Enlarge the location of your tent, Make your tents large. Spread out! Think big! Use plenty of rope, drive the tent pegs deep. You will extend your boundaries on all sides; You're going to need lots of elbow room for your growing family. For you will soon be bursting at the seams. You're going to take over whole nations; you're going to resettle abandoned cities.*

This is one of those passages that I personally have travelled with for a long time.

On the face of it it looks quite simple.... Make the tent bigger! We understand what that means.... But how does that happen?

Well it starts with these.... Goats.....Sheep....Camels... its a Hairy Story

You see you couldn't just pop down to Halfords & buy a Tent! You had to MAKE it.

That meant keeping goats & sheep... feeding them...caring for them... in the wilderness where food was scarce... you had to move where the food was.... So that took a lot of time... Then, you could only cut the hair & wool at certain times....

After that you had to wash it... comb it...spin it into thread.... Then weave it into 5 or 6 strips of cloth each at least 25 feet long... and sew them together. & that's just the top!. You needed two or three more long strips to make the outside walls & several more for the dividers inside the tent... a total of 250 feet long.... Oh and don't forget the ropes & pegs. By the way do you know how they fixed the tent down in the sand? Have you ever tried to put up one of those wind shelters on the beach? They would grab some tumble-weed, tie the tent rope around it then dig a hole in the sand about 2ft deep & bury it ... That would hold the tent secure.

Finally, There were no Poles! Anyone know why? They were all Bedouins.... Seriously, **take a look at this picture....** Trees were scarce.... And they didn't have nice straight branches & trunks. So they may have had to trade for them.

This Tent stuff was a **serious business** that took a lot of ...

- PLANNING
- TIME
- WORK
- COMMITMENT.

Getting back to 'Enlarging your tent.' Why would you do that?

- **Got Children**.... We certainly have some of those... of all ages, for we are all children of a heavenly father.
- **Want more Children!** Yes that too... we want to see the church family grow in number.
- **Because God Told you to..** right in Genesis God told Adam '*Fill the earth..*' He told Abraham '*your descendants will be more than the stars in the sky...*' Jesus told the Disciples.... '*Go into all the world preach the gospel....and make disciples*'

Right there we have three kingdom purposes. No Doubt you can think of more... You see.... We serve a Big God.... with Big Plans. That's why he said '*Enlarge the Place of your Tent...*' Because God is on the Move... We..His people, also need to be on the Move...

Over the last few months the Leaders have been feeling the Lord tell us It's time to 'Enlarge the place of OUR tent' for our Sunday Services. The leadership team have been discussing, and making plans to do that. At times it feels a bit like sitting on the flight deck of the Starship Enterprise... Scary & excited anticipation at the same time...

When the people of Israel left the slavery of Egypt they had already experienced an number of Miracles. At Sinai they were given the law. They were also given instructions for the Tabernacle.... Which was to be the Dwelling place for God amongst them. Thios is how it worked...

*Num 9: 15-23 NLT selected On the day the Tabernacle was set up, the cloud of God's presence covered it. Then from evening until morning the cloud over the Tabernacle looked like a pillar of fire. This was the regular pattern – at night the cloud that covered the Tabernacle had the appearance of fire. Whenever the cloud lifted from over the sacred tent, the people of Israel would break camp and follow it. And wherever the cloud settled, the people of Israel would set up camp. Whether the cloud stayed above the Tabernacle for two days, a month, or a year, the people of Israel stayed in camp and did not move on. But as soon as it lifted, they broke camp and moved on. So they camped or traveled at the Lord's command... (Num. 9:15-23)*

Later they sent out 12 spies to look at the land God had promised them...

10 saw the Problems... Two saw the Promise.

I want us at Lighthouse Church to be people who see the Promise....and move in obedience to God

- For 40 years the people of Israel moved about... every day there was Manna on the ground for them to eat. But the people moaned....
- Every weekend there were enough Quail for everybody to eat quail... sometimes they were knee deep in quail... but they still moaned...
- Every day the Cloud was hovering over the Tabernacle Tent in the daytime and a pillar of fire by night to show the people that God was with them... And they still moaned.

Why am I telling stuff that you already know...? Because I don't want you to make the same mistake!

God wants YOU to not only see the Promise..... But to enter the Promised Land too!

So... The Israelites had to **Cross over the Jordan.....**

<https://youtu.be/quDZ298uF4E>

God made a way where there was no way. The water stopped & parted... and the people walked through on dry land. But nothing happened... **Until They Took The First Step.**

Crossing the Jordan was just a step on the way.... There were still battles to fight, Cities to be taken. Giants to be slain... crops to be planted & harvested... But God was with them!

When you take a step of faith with God..... when you put your foot in your Jordan....God says... *'I will be with you.'*

Do you want to be where God is?... Well God is on the Move!

It may look scary... it may feel unsettling... it may look like a lot of work... But the Cloud is lifting... Our God, The God of the pillar of fire & Smoke..... is on the move.

But there is something Different for us.... WE are the Tent... HIS presence, HIS Power, HIS Provision...HIS Authority... HIS victory... Dwell in and fill these tents we call our bodies.

God is WITH us....

**Mar 10:27** *Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."*

**2 Cor 9:8 MSG** *God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done.*

**Rom 8:32 ERV** *He even let his own Son suffer for us. God gave his Son for all of us. So now with Jesus, God will surely give us all things.*

Enlarge the Place of YOUR tent... be excited.... We have Jordan to Cross... we have land to possess.....battles to win.... We have Giants to slay... God is with us....

## **We are Moving House!**

If you are not yet part of God's family... you can become a child of God and a follower of Jesus today... If you want to ask Jesus into your life for the first time today pray this prayer after me... If you are already a Christian pray it with me too and stir your faith into action for what God has ahead.

Pray after me:

Lord Jesus, I want to know you personally.

I'm sorry for going my own way instead of your way.

Thank you for dying on the cross to forgive my sin. Please come and take first place in my life and make me the person you want me to be.