**TAKING THE WRONG TURN ON A MOUNTAIN**

Jeremiah 50:4-6; 6:16-17, 20

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**INTRODUCTION**

When driving a car, how many times have you made the wrong turn and been forced to take a longer route to your destination? Too many to mention, I’m sure! It happens to us all. It is bad enough when it is just in traveling from one place to another. How much greater the tragedy when we take the wrong turn in our spiritual journey! Jeremiah tells us that God’s people often find themselves wandering because of making the wrong turn or taking the wrong path. Let us examine this idea further to see what we can learn from it.

1. **WANDERING ON THE MOUNTAINS AND HILLS (50:6)**
2. Like **lost** **sheep**, God’s people take the wrong turn, or choose the wrong path.
3. Taking the wrong turn leads to roaming and **wandering**.
4. Wandering afar, they f**orget** their own resting place, or home.

*Taking the wrong turn leads to wandering and a sense of lostness. In this lost condition, the sheep forget where their resting place is and will sleep anywhere with any sheep they find while wandering on the hills and mountains.*

1. **THE REAL CAUSE OF WANDERING**
2. The sheep followed shepherds that failed to lead them properly: **Bad** **priests**!
3. The people ignored God’s advice to seek the **old** paths, the **good** way.

Their response: *“We will not walk in it”* (6:16).

1. The people ignored God’s watchers (prophets and priests) **appointed** over them.

Their response: *“We will not listen”* (6:17).

*God’s people can only blame the priests for so much. Ultimately, the people are responsible for their own choices—especially when they take the wrong turn themselves. The choice leads to disaster for His people: “sudden destruction” (Jere. 6:26).*

1. **THE REMEDY FOR WANDERING**
2. God tells the people to **repent**: *“Go in tears to seek the Lord”* (50:4).
3. God tells His people to **return**: *“Ask where the good way is, and walk in it”* (6:16).
4. God tells His people to **re-commit**: *“Come and bind…in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten”* (50:5).

*When God’s people are lost among the mountains of life, they need to listen to God. If they do, the Good Shepherd will lead them back to the right path and to the resting place.*

**CONCLUSION**

If you are struggling and wandering in your life right now, I want to assure you there is hope! You can find a better way in Christ today. Allow me to ask you some questions: (1) Will you return to the Lord with a broken heart and spirit, or will you harden your heart and continue to wander? (2) Will you seek the old ways of God and walk in the good path, or will you continue to go your own way? (3) Will you re-commit your life to the Lord, or will you walk away from Him? You and you alone can decide whether you will wander among the mountains and hills or allow Jesus Christ to show you the way again. I encourage you to make the choice to follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd, once again.

*“My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior Divine!*

*Now hear me while I pray, Take all my guilt away, O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!*

*While this dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my Guide;*

*Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow’s tears away, Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside.”*