

## Immerse Day 64 :: Duty

The Israelites had become a nomadic people since Egypt. Everything they owned, they carried with them. And though they longed to settle somewhere permanently, and they had been promised this by God, and He had given them rules for when they did, yet for now they were nomads.

One of the really hard things about this life is that when you go to war, everything you own goes with you. Your crops, flocks, families, everything. You can leave them behind in a temporary camp, but if you lose, they will still be captured. What was a person to do?



Well, if you're the tribe of Reuben, or Gad, or half of the tribe of Manasseh, when you finally came to rich lands near the Promised Land, you asked if you could settle there. But Moses was suspicious. "Are you just sick and tired of wandering and so now, when we're on the very doorstep of the Promised Land, you want to quit? Is that it?"

This seems a logical conclusion, but the leaders of these three (2 ½?) clans have a good answer. "No, we're not quitting. In fact, if we can have these lands, we'll leave our possessions and families here, but we will lead the troops into the Promised Land. Once the fighting is over, we'll come back and settle here permanently."

Not a bad plan. It maintains the military advantage for Israel, removes the question of who leads the charge, and gives these three tribes some safety. Not bad at all.

These tribes had a duty to their fellow Israelites, and they promised to fulfill it. And in return, they got some safety for their families. What duties do you have to God? To your fellow Christians? To our LCC community? Are you fulfilling them? Are others? May we be willing to fulfill our duties to each other, for that is a huge part of what Community really means.