

## Sermon Outlines Milestones

*“Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.” (Deuteronomy 17:16)*  
*“Ye have not passed this way heretofore.” (Joshua 3:4)*

Never this way before - never this way again! Milestones are helpful, not only to show the way, but also as reminders of distance traveled and as encouragement for what is still to be covered. The New Year is a helpful milestone for past and future, although every day, according to Thomas Carlyle, is “the influence of two eternities.”

### I. **Retrospect** (Deut. 17:16)

#### 1. *Sins*

Forgiven - covered - in spite of Satan’s efforts. Cf. God’s language - in the sea, behind His back, blotted out as a cloud, remembered no more.

#### 2. *Sorrows*

Discipline comes with discipleship - “nevertheless afterward” - estimate results, not processes, hills, not steps.

*“In the center of the circle  
Of the will of God I stand;  
There can be no second causes,  
All must come from His dear hand.  
All is well! for ’tis my Father  
Who my earthly life hath planned.*

*Shall I pass through waves of sorrow?  
Then I know it will be best;  
Though I cannot tell the reason,  
I can trust and so am blest.  
God is love, and God is faithful,  
So in perfect peace I rest.”*

#### 3. *Mistakes*

It is well to:

- a. Cease regrets, for it is impossible to retrieve or retrace. Regret often weakens and opens way for “discouragement because of the way.”
- b. Profit by errors, and in this way decide on a different and better course.

### II. **Prospect** (Josh. 3:4)

#### 1. *New Opportunity*

New duties, new experiences, new ideas, new hopes, new determinations. It should be better, therefore, on before.

#### 2. *New Assurance*

Cf. Numbers 9 and 10

- Ark - presence of God
- Pillar of cloud and fire - protection
- Trumpets - precepts
- Hobab - persuasion

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### 3. *New Call*

Trust and obedience - faith and faithfulness - rest and love.

*“With so blest a Friend provided  
We upon our way would go,  
Sure of being safely guided,  
Guarded well from every foe.*

*Every day will be the brighter  
When Thy gracious face we see;  
Every burden will be lighter  
When we know it comes from Thee.”*

### Conclusion

Therefore not these aspects of the will of God:

1. Purpose - “I came” (Heb. 10:7)
2. Aim - “I seek” (Jn. 5:30)
3. Satisfaction - “my meat” (Jn. 4:34)
4. Fellowship - “my brother” (Mk. 3:35)
5. Prayer - “teach me” (Psa. 143:10)
6. Outcome - “for ever” (1 Jn. 2:17)

Then note these aspects of the leading of God:

1. Start - “thou hast led forth” (Ex. 15:13)
2. Continuity - “he led him about” (Deut. 32:10)
3. Divinity - “the Lord also did lead” (Deut. 32:12)
4. Safety - “he led them on safely” (Psa. 78:53)
5. Obstacles - “he led them through the depths” (Psa. 106:9)
6. Direction - “he led them forth by the right way” (Psa. 107:7)

*“With the shade and with the sunshine,  
With the joy and with the pain,  
Lord, I trust Thee - Both are needed  
Me, Thy wayward child, to train.  
Earthly loss, did we but know it,  
Often means our heavenly gain.*

. . . . *W.H. Griffith Thomas, D.D.*