



Into the Wilderness – Understanding & Embracing the Dark Times of Your Life

Words translated as “wilderness” occur nearly 300 times in the Bible. Wilderness seasons are brutal, but God is powerfully at work in the wilderness seasons of our lives. The only question is, do we have eyes to see it?

In order for God to give us the choice whether or not to trust him, He must present us with a moment of crisis, and, since he wants us to seek help from Him, he brings us through the wilderness to remove all other help first. When we’re in a wilderness season, it’s easy to lose sight of God’s protection, provision, and preparation. We might even wonder, “How can I trust God’s goodness when I’m in this desolate place?” But remember Jesus! He went through the ultimate wilderness—the desolation and humiliation of dying under the curse of God. If that is the measure of God’s love and commitment to us, we can trust him in our own wilderness seasons. Let’s journey together!

Highland Colony Men’s Roundtable

www.MensTable.com

Wilderness: I RECEIVE! - I Peter 4:1-2; Exodus 20:1-26

May 28, 2020

A Man Understands how God uses the wilderness to shape and train.

Bible Verses: I Peter 4:1,2; Exodus 20:1-26

Music: Third Day - Your Words ft. Harvest

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqaA8XB15o>

Videos: Band Of Brothers - All The Interviews With The Soldiers Of Easy Company

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMUbF0ltdT0>

Resources: *Walking with God through Pain & Suffering* by Timothy Keller.

Suffering and the Heart of God: How Trauma Destroys and Christ Restores by Diane Langberg.

Restoring the Shattered Self – A Christian’s Counselor’s Guide to Complex Trauma by Heather Davediuk Gingrich.

Into the Wilderness: GRACE & THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. _____ → This brief look at the Ten Commandments should accomplish three works of grace in our hearts (Gal. 3:10-13).
 1. _____ → It should convict us. We are guilty sinners. We are lawbreakers.
 2. _____ → It should drive us to Jesus who took the guilt of lawbreakers upon Himself.
 3. _____ → It should make us realize there is no way we can fully obey God from the heart. First, we need God to create within us a new heart. Then we need to learn to walk by faith, in the power of grace. Even then we long for the fullness of redemption.
2. _____ → Love is a summary of the law, but love is not thereby simply exchanged for the commandments. The commandments, which are acted out in the life of Jesus, paint for us the colors of love. Moses comes down from Mount Sinai from his encounter with the holy God with his two tablets of stone to an awestruck Israel. The first time he does it, he smashes them in rage because he sees them worshipping the golden calf, and thus breaking the central precept of the law even as they receive it: “You shall have no other gods before me”. It’s extraordinary stuff. The Ten Commandments are given to Israel—along with 603 others—not simply as a suggestion but as a rule of life in God’s land under God’s authority. This is what made them who they were.

Into the Wilderness: RECEIVE LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY.

1. _____ → The second aspect of the Mosaic covenant is the giving of the Law. In Exodus 20, Moses is given the Ten Commandments, which summarize all of the details of the Law that follows. The Law is given after salvation from slavery and is not how the people earn their favor in the eyes of God. The three uses of the Law:
 1. _____ → The Law gives believers a guide for the conduct of their lives.
 2. _____ → The Law exposes our sin but leaves us there, indeed, it exacerbates our sinful inclinations, not by its intent but incidentally, due to the wickedness of our hearts. Only the Holy Spirit can give us new hearts and enable us, in union with Christ, to obey God. The law is weak (Romans 7:1-8:8). It exposes our sin, but leaves us there.
 3. _____ → The Law asserts our rule of life as Christian believers. It is based on creation ordinances: the worship of God, work and rest, marriage and family. The law expresses the unchanging will of God for His creatures and is no more open to change than God Himself. The promise of the new covenant given through Jeremiah affirms that in it God will write His laws on our hearts (Jer. 31:31-33).
2. _____ → The Law defines for us what is pleasing to God and what is sin. It is a map, explaining to us how our sanctification is to take shape. The Spirit uses it for that purpose. We neglect it to our eternal peril.

Into the Wilderness: THE HEART OF THE GUIDELINES.

LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART (Commandments 1-4)

1. Respect for God’s unique position (20:3).
 - *Forbids* idolatry in any form, putting anything in place of the one, true God (1 Cor. 10:14).
 - *Requires* wholly trusting, loving, and worshiping God (Mk. 12:30; 1 Jn. 5:21) 2.
2. Respect for God’s spiritual nature (20:4-6).
 - *Forbids* using visual representations of God in worship (Jn. 4:24) [God is spirit, and cannot be seen.]
 - *Requires* worshiping God in spirit and truth (Jn. 4:24)
3. Respect for God’s holy name (20:7).
 - *Forbids* empty worship, or using God’s name irreverently and carelessly (Matt. 12:36)
 - *Requires* reverence for God’s name and person (Matt. 6:9)
4. Respect for God’s special day (20:8-11).
 - *Forbids* unnecessary employment and the neglect of worship on the Lord’s Day (Heb. 10:24-25)
 - *Requires* setting aside one day a week for rest (intermission), and intentional worship (Heb. 10:24-25)
5. Respect for neighbor’s authority (20:12).
 - *Forbids* disobedience or disrespect of human authorities (Rom. 13:7)
 - *Requires* godly attitudes and responses toward human authorities (1 Pet. 2:17)
6. Respect for neighbor’s life (20:13).
 - *Forbids* taking innocent human life [Note, murderers are not innocent and, therefore, worthy of the death penalty, Gen. 9:6. Romans 13:7 – God gave governing authorities “the power of the sword.”]
 - *Requires* preserving, protecting, and caring for human life

7. Respect for neighbor's sexuality (20:14).
 - *Forbids* any sexual activity outside of one man with one woman in marriage (Heb. 13:4)
 - *Requires* physical intimacy within marriage, and proper gender roles (1 Cor. 7:3-5)
8. Respect for neighbor's property (20:15).
 - *Forbids* taking any possessions that do not belong to us, or acquiring or keeping wealth through fraudulent means (Eph. 4:28).
 - *Requires* acquiring property through ethical means (Eph. 4:28).
9. Respect for neighbor's integrity and reputation (20:16).
 - *Forbids* lying about, or to, others (Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9).
 - *Requires* speaking truthfully about, or to, others (Eph. 4:25).
10. Respect for neighbor's assets (20:17).
 - *Forbids* desiring anything that belongs to someone else (Rom. 13:9).
 - *Requires* being content with what God provides for us (1 Tim. 6:6-10).

ACTION: Journal this!

1. What is difficult for you about receiving instructions?
2. What frees you to give your best self?
3. Who do you know that is in the wilderness NOW?

Bible Verses – The Message

<p>I Peter 4:1,2 - 1 Since Jesus went through everything you're going through and more, learn to think like him. Think of your sufferings as a weaning from that old sinful habit of always expecting to get your own way. 2 Then you'll be able to live out your days free to pursue what God wants instead of being tyrannized by what you want.</p> <p>Exodus 20:1-26 - 1 God spoke all these words: 2 I am God, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of a life of slavery. 3 No other gods, only me. 4 No carved gods of any size, shape, or form of anything whatever, whether of things that fly or walk or swim. 5 Don't bow down to them and don't serve them because I am God, your God, and I'm a most jealous God, punishing the children for any sins their parents pass on to them to the third, and yes, even to the fourth generation of those who hate me. 6 But I'm unswervingly loyal to the thousands who love me and keep my commandments. 7 No using the name of God, your God, in curses or silly banter; God won't put up with the irreverent use of his name. 8 Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Work six days and do everything you need to do. 10 But the seventh day is a Sabbath to God, your God. Don't do any work - not you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servant, nor your maid, nor your animals, not even the foreign guest visiting in your town. 11 For in six days God made Heaven, Earth, and sea, and everything in them; he rested on the seventh day. Therefore God blessed the Sabbath day; he set it apart as a</p>	<p>holy day. 12 Honor your father and mother so that you'll live a long time in the land that God, your God, is giving you. 13 No murder. 14 No adultery. 15 No stealing. 16 No lies about your neighbor. 17 No lusting after your neighbor's house - or wife or servant or maid or ox or donkey. Don't set your heart on anything that is your neighbor's. 18 All the people, experiencing the thunder and lightning, the trumpet blast and the smoking mountain, were afraid - they pulled back and stood at a distance. 19 They said to Moses, "You speak to us and we'll listen, but don't have God speak to us or we'll die." 20 Moses spoke to the people: "Don't be afraid. God has come to test you and instill a deep and reverent awe within you so that you won't sin." 21 The people kept their distance while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was. 22 God said to Moses, "Give this Message to the People of Israel: 'You've experienced firsthand how I spoke with you from Heaven. 23 Don't make gods of silver and gods of gold and then set them alongside me. 24 Make me an earthen Altar. Sacrifice your Whole-Burnt-Offerings, your Peace-Offerings, your sheep, and your cattle on it. Every place where I cause my name to be honored in your worship, I'll be there myself and bless you. 25 If you use stones to make my Altar, don't use dressed stones. If you use a chisel on the stones you'll profane the Altar. 26 Don't use steps to climb to my Altar because that will expose your nakedness.'</p>
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"Your Words" – Third Day

<p>Let me hear Your words Above all other voices Above all the distractions in this world</p> <p>Let me hear Your words Above all of the voices Above all the distractions in this world</p> <p>For Your words bring life And Your voice speaks promises Lord, Your love offers more Than anything else in this world</p>	<p>Your words give us life that's never ending Your words bring us love that never fails Everything else will fade away But what will remain Are Your words</p> <p>Let us speak Your words More than ours, more than ever Let us share Your love with all the world</p> <p>The grass will wither and the flowers will fall But the word of our God will last forever The grass will wither and the flowers will fall But the word of our God will last forever</p>
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