



## 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](http://www.MensTable.com)

Wilderness: Called to Care! - I Peter 4:1-2; Numbers 14:20-23; 20:12; 27:18-21

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

June 11, 2020

**Bible Verses:** I Peter 4:1,2; Numbers 14:20-23; Numbers 20:12; Numbers 27:18-21; Galatians 5:7-10; Hebrews 3:19; Ephesians 2:7-10; Galatians 1:10-12; Matthew 20:24-28

**Music:** Matthew West - Do Something

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_RjndG0IX8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndG0IX8)

**Videos:** Band of Brothers - Scene of Malarkey Picking Up Laundry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aMnxQjDGDU>

**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: WE ARE SAVED TO SERVE!

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Every Christian is charged with the mission to care. We cut our self off from God’s blessing through unbelief, not caring (Galatians 5:7-10; Hebrews 3:15-19).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → Rebellion against God cost the children of Israel dearly. Numbers could be called the Wilderness Wandering from Sinai to the border of Canaan, land of promise, covering about 40 years. Numbers might, too, be called the Book of Murmurings because from beginning to end it is filled with the spirit of rebellion against God. We can become cynical, discouraged, or apathetic when there is so much chaos and discord around us.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → Numbers is a call to serve God. We are not saved by good works, but we are created in Christ Jesus do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:7-10).
  - In Genesis, we see man ruined.
  - In Exodus, man is redeemed.
  - In Leviticus, man is worshipping.
  - In Numbers, man is serving.

### Into the Wilderness: Summary of Numbers

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → The book of Numbers begins with the preparations for the march across the wilderness, tells of experiences along the way, describes the failure of faith that led the exodus generation of Israelites to refuse to undertake the conquest of the Promised Land, tells of the 40 years of waiting until a whole generation would die, and ends with the preparation for entering Canaan.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → Numbers was written as a warning to the generation of Israelites born in the wilderness, that they should persevere in faith and obedience where their parents had not.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → The book of Numbers vividly portrays the faithfulness of the covenant God despite the failures of an erring humanity. The portrayal of God’s covenant faithfulness is in sharp contrast with the book’s repeated depiction of human faithlessness, the utter failure of humanity to meet God’s standards by its own strength.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ → God’s plan was that the children of Israel should go straight into the land He had promised them, the land of Canaan, but the people would not. God said that all those at Kadesh over 20 years old, except Joshua and Caleb, would have to die.

### Into the Wilderness: Care about Another!

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → In Galatians 1:10-12, Paul directs us to be a “servant” or “slave” (from the Greek word *doulos*) of Christ. As Jesus tells us in Matthew 20:24-28, greatness in the kingdom of God belongs to those who serve its citizens.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → At the heart of our fallenness is a refusal to honor God as God or to show proper gratitude to Him with praise and thanksgiving. So, it is imperative that Christian men, at the beginning of his pursuit to understand what true worship is, gets it clear that the object of our worship is to be God and God alone.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → God put you where you are. Look around and see the need. Instead of being overwhelmed by the great need, we can think of ways we can meet a need. Instead of worrying about everything, we can spend time praying about everything.
  1. Use Social Media to stay connected and invite men to community.
  2. Meet Physical needs of those who need your help.
  3. Offer Hope to those you come in contact with. “We will get through this! God will bring us through the wilderness!”

### ACTION: Journal this!

1. Who are you committed to care for?
2. What are your most consistent acts of service?
3. Who do you know that’s in the wilderness NOW?

## Bible Verses – The Message

**1 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.

**Numbers 14:20-23 - 20** God said, "I forgive them, honoring your words. **21** But as I live and as the Glory of God fills the whole Earth - **22** not a single person of those who saw my Glory, saw the miracle signs I did in Egypt and the wilderness, and who have tested me over and over and over again, turning a deaf ear to me - **23** not one of them will set eyes on the land I so solemnly promised to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with such repeated contempt will see it.

**Numbers 20:12 - 12** God said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you didn't trust me, didn't treat me with holy reverence in front of the People of Israel, you two aren't going to lead this company into the land that I am giving them."

**Numbers 27:18-21 - 18** God said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun - the Spirit is in him! - and place your hand on him. **19** Stand him before Eleazar the priest in front of the entire congregation and commission him with everyone watching. **20** Pass your magisterial authority over to him so that the whole congregation of the People of Israel will listen obediently to him. **21** He is to consult with Eleazar the priest who, using the oracle-Urim, will prayerfully advise him in the presence of God. He will command the People of Israel, the entire community, in all their comings and goings."

**Galatians 5:7-10 - 7** You were running superbly! Who cut in on you, deflecting you from the true course of obedience? **8** This detour doesn't come from the One who called you into the race in the first place. **9** And please don't toss this off as insignificant. It only takes a minute amount of yeast, you know, to permeate an entire loaf of bread. **10** Deep down, the Master has given me confidence that you will not defect. But the one who is upsetting you, whoever he is, will bear the divine judgment.

**Hebrews 3:19 - 19** They never got there because they never listened, never believed.

**Ephesians 2:7-10 - 7** Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. **8** Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! **9** We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! **10** No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

**Galatians 1:10-12 - 10** Do you think I speak this strongly in order to manipulate crowds? Or curry favor with God? Or get popular applause? If my goal was popularity, I wouldn't bother being Christ's slave. **11** Know this - I am most emphatic here, friends - this great Message I delivered to you is not mere human optimism. **12** I didn't receive it through the traditions, and I wasn't taught it in some school. I got it straight from God, received the Message directly from Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 20:24-28 - 24** When the ten others heard about this, they lost their tempers, thoroughly disgusted with the two brothers. **25** So Jesus got them together to settle things down. He said, "You've observed how godless rulers throw their weight around, how quickly a little power goes to their heads. **26** It's not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. **27** Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. **28** That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not be served - and then to give away his life in exchange for the many who are held hostage."

### Do Something by Matthew West

<p>I woke up this morning Saw a world full of trouble now I thought, "How'd we ever get so far down?" And "How's it ever gonna turn around?" So, I turned my eyes to Heaven, I thought, "God, why don't You do something?"</p> <p>Well, I just couldn't bear the thought of People living in poverty, Children sold into slavery. The thought disgusted me. So, I shook my fist at Heaven, I said, "God, why don't You do something?" He said, "I did." Yeah. "I created you."</p> <p>Now listen.</p> <p>If not us, then who? If not me and you? Right now. Well, it's time for us to do something. If not now, then when? Will we see an end To all this pain?</p>	<p>It's not enough to do nothing. It's time for us to do something. I'm so tired of talking About how we are God's hands and feet. But it's easier to say than to be. Live like angels of apathy Who tell ourselves, "It's alright: somebody else will do something."</p> <p>Well, I don't know about you, But I'm sick and tired Of life with no desire. I don't want a flame, I want a fire. I wanna be the one who stands up and says, "I'm gonna do something."</p> <p>If not us, then who? If not me and you? Right now. It's time for us to do something. Yes, it is. Come on. If not now, then when? Will we see an end</p>	<p>To all this pain? Well, it's not enough to do nothing. It's time for us to do something.</p> <p>We are the salt of the earth. We are a city on a hill Shine, shine, shine, shine. We're never gonna change the world By standing still. No, we won't stand still. No, we won't stand still. No, we won't stand still. No!</p> <p>If not us, then who? If not me and you? Right now. It's time for us to do something. If not now, then when? Will we see an end To all this pain? It's not enough to do nothing. It's time for us to do something. It's time for us to do something. It's time for us to do something.</p>
---	--	---

**Philip K. Hardin, M.A., M.Div.**

Director of Business & Professional Outreach, Intl. - Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, Licensed Professional Counselor, and Certified Life Coach

563 Johnson Avenue – Fairhope, Alabama 36532

Phone: 601-925-0707

Email: [phil@bpointl.org](mailto:phil@bpointl.org)

Webpage: [www.bpointl.org](http://www.bpointl.org)