



## 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: Are You Willing to Fight? - I Peter 4:1-2; Numbers 13:26-33

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

June 18, 2020

**Bible Verses:** I Peter 4:1,2; Numbers 13:26-33

**Music:** Steven Curtis Chapman - "Warrior"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYEgOh\\_bCo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYEgOh_bCo)

**Videos:** Band of Brothers Crossroads The Island Charge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOSvLWK5Z2A>

**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: Grasshopper or Giant Killer?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Whatever your fear it can paralyze you and keep you from experiencing all that God wants for you. It can rob you of your peace. It can keep you trapped in the dry deserts where life is safe but not really, comfortable but only momentarily. It can keep you from entering the Promised Land that God has in store for you. There is a land flowing with milk and honey out there for you, but fear can prevent you from entering it.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → The only 2 names we remember are Joshua and Caleb. We’ll learn why that is true as the story unfolds. Twelve men go in the land to see what kinds of fields and fruits it produces, what the people are like, the fortifications of their cities, and anything else that might help the Israelites enter and secure dominance of the land. Their report on the land comes to Moses, his brother Aaron, and the whole Israelite community.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → You could see the countenance of the people fall as they heard the report. Giants. Large fortified cities. Armies of warriors. Their hearts sank. They were intimidated. They began to grumble. “This isn’t what we expected.” “No one told us we would have to fight giants.” “We will surely die. What good is freedom if your blood is spilled in the desert.”
4. \_\_\_\_\_ → One of the 12 spies heard the murmuring and knew he had to say something. Caleb knew the moment was critical in the history of his people. And he stood up and the Scriptures say he silenced the people and said, “**We should go up and take possession of the land for we can certainly do it**” (Num 13:30). Caleb had seen the same thing the other spies had seen giants, fortified cities, powerful armies. And yet his response was completely different than his colleagues.

### Into the Wilderness: Will You Commit?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Commitment means involvement. We fathers need to stand up and say, “I will!” I will be involved in being and becoming a good father. I want to be the best father I can be! I will love well and seek to become better.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → I believe we must commit to become mature, wise fathers. Simply having birthdays and getting older does not mean we are growing and maturing. Growth is about looking in the mirror and seeing with the eyes of our hearts. What do you see when you look in the mirror?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → Most men are suffering from “father wounds.” Many men did not experience the guidance and instruction they needed to be confident in their manhood. Boys get older and are called men because they have birthdays, but becoming a man is an act of training and modeling. Most men cannot remember times their dads sat with them and coached them on how to treat a woman or resolve a ruptured relationship.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ – Fathers who are genuinely ready to give to their children are men who have done or engaged in their work of healing and who are committed to growth. Fathers who show up and are fully engaged with their children are heroes. Dads who are especially teaching their children to love God and be intimate with Him is rare. Walking with God is not a moral journey as much as it is an honest, humble journey of seeing God’s Beauty in His word and His created world.
5. **5 Elements of Jewish Blessing > What a Good Dad gives a son or daughter:**
  1. **Meaningful Touch** = Standing close, putting your hands on the child’s head, and perhaps a kiss to seal the event are all tactile.
  2. **Spoken Words** = Our children need to hear why we believe in them and what we value.
  3. **Word Pictures of High Value** = Speak about one of your child’s specific positive traits.
  4. **Picturing a Special Future** = Our kids need hope that the future holds a place for them.
  5. **A Commitment to Seeing the Blessing Fulfilled** = This means you are declaring your intention and willingness to do whatever it takes to fulfill this blessing for your child.

### ACTION: Journal this!

1. What are you battling right now? Who are most of your aggressive energies really aimed at in the course of a week?
2. What fears are you fighting?
3. Who do you know that’s in the wilderness NOW?

### Bible Verses – The Message

<p><b>1 Peter 4:1,2 - 1</b> 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. <b>2</b> 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><b>Numbers 13:26-33 - 26</b> They presented themselves before Moses and Aaron and the whole congregation of the People of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran at Kadesh. They reported to the whole ongregation and showed them the fruit of the land. <b>27</b> Then they told the story of their trip: <b>28</b> The only thing is that the people who live there are fierce, their cities are huge and well fortified. Worse yet, we saw descendants of the giant Anak. <b>29</b> Amalekites are spread out in the Negev; Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites hold the hill country; and the Canaanites are established on the Mediterranean Sea and along the Jordan." <b>30</b> Caleb interrupted, called for silence before Moses and said, "Let's go up and take the land - now. We can do it." <b>31</b> But the others said, "We can't attack those people; they're way stronger than we are." <b>32</b> They spread scary rumors among the People of Israel. They said, "We scouted out the land from one end to the other - it's a land that swallows people whole. Everybody we saw was huge. <b>33</b> Why, we even saw the Nephilim giants (the Anak giants come from the Nephilim). Alongside them we felt like grasshoppers. And they looked down on us as if we were grasshoppers."</p>
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### Warrior by Steven Curtis Chapman

<p>I see the smoke on the horizon. I feel my heart pounding in my chest. I hear the war raging all around me. And somehow I feel like I was born for this. I can taste the fear, but I choose courage As I raise my shield and lift my sword.</p> <p>And I fall on my knees and I fight like a warrior I am a warrior on my knees. I call on the Name of the One Who is Conqueror I'm more than a conqueror when I believe. The enemy trembles every time 'Cause he knows the battle is no longer mine When I fall on my knees and I fight like a warrior, like a warrior, oh, oh, oh</p> <p>Daughters and sons, we can hear your calling Broken and weak, we can hear your cry And even though our enemy roars like a lion, The Lion of Judah is on our side.</p>	<p>And He will go before us and behind us Fighting on the left and on the right</p> <p>So I fall on my knees and I fight like a warrior I am a warrior on my knees I call on the Name of the One Who is Conqueror I'm more than a conqueror when I believe The enemy trembles every time 'Cause he knows the battle is no longer mine When I fall on my knees and I fight like a warrior, like a warrior, like a warrior</p> <p>Our weapons are trust, our weapons are hope In the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords He says, "I am with you so don't be afraid, 'Cause I've already won this war." So fall on your knees and fight with me, We are the Warriors when we are on our knees The enemy trembles... We will fall on our knees and fight like a warrior</p>	<p>We are the Warriors on our knees We call on the Name of the One Who is Conqueror We're more than conquerors when we believe The enemy trembles every time 'Cause he knows the battle isn't yours or mine When we fall on our knees and fight like a warrior, like a warrior We are warriors on our knees We are the warriors, we are Warriors, we are Warriors on our knees</p> <p>Jesus! Calling on the Name of Jesus! Power in the Name of Jesus! Calling on the Name of Jesus! Power in the Name of Jesus! Calling on the Name of Jesus! Power in the Name of Jesus! Calling on the Name of Jesus! Power in the Name of Jesus!</p>
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