



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: Marching ON! - I Peter 4:1-2; Deuteronomy 4:1,2

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

July 16, 2020

Bible Verses: I Peter 4:1,2; Deuteronomy 4:1,2; James 1:22-24; Deuteronomy 1:1-14; 43-46; Luke 4:4-12; Ephesians 1:3-6; Acts 17:5-9; Micah 6:1-8; Isaiah 1:16-18

Music: The Battle Hymn of the Republic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jy6AOGRsR80>

Videos: Returning to Normandy: The Richard D. Winters Leadership Monument Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cqi3PRGFhw0>

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: Moses Inspires to March ON!

1. _____ → Moses wanted the people to “act on what you hear.” He wanted them to be “doers of the word, and not hearers only.” His sermon shows the blessing of obedience and the curse of disobedience. Everything depends on obedience. See James 1:22-24.
2. _____ → Moses’ first address (Deut. 1-4). Moses gives a summary of the wilderness history of Israel. He gives his viewpoint as a God-centered view, rather than a man-centered. Deuteronomy is a book of remembrance and relates the final preparation for entering the Promised Land and covers about two months (30 days was mourning for Moses). Moses delivered his counsel within a period of 7 days. See Deuteronomy 1:1-14; 43-46.
3. _____ → Jesus often quoted from Deuteronomy. He took Deuteronomy as His code of conduct (Luke 4:4-12). He answered the devil in the hour of temptation from its’ writings. Therefore, Moses’ last charge to his people, seems to have about it the peculiar blessing and protection of Christ Himself.
4. _____ → Moses pointed the people to walk by faith. God has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ, but it must be appropriated and possessed by faith. See Ephesians 1:3-6.

Into the Wilderness: Are You Ready for the Promised Land—Moving from Trauma to Healing!

1. _____ → The response to suffering, being in a wilderness experience, can be traumatic. Those who have been traumatized want to flee the memory of its occurrence, and we who hear find we want to flee also. The great tension is the futile attempt to forget the unspeakable, although it continues to live on and scream in the mind. That push-pull between the need to forget and the need to speak is the central dialectic of trauma, and that tension is not only experienced by individuals and families, but also by institutions and nations.
2. _____ → Heaven leaves heaven—its place of comfort, songs, purity, plenty, and money to give. Heaven comes down. God became like us so that we might become like Him. He came to this dung-filled, dark dungeon on earth and sat with us, touched us, loves us, and called us to Him. Jesus enters the dark dungeons of our hearts and transforms them. See Acts 17:5-9 – “these men have turned the world upside down.”
3. _____ → Trauma is REAL! Trauma means living with the recurrent, tormenting memories of experience of troubling events witnessed or borne. Hiding darkness in our own souls, whether it is in pride, pornography, or fear can be traumatic. The guilt, shame, or terror of being harmed by being found out is what Jesus left glory to heal.

Into the Wilderness: I Will Stand UP!

1. _____ → We are to look at suffering and injustice and its polar opposite, justice, which we are told is a requirement of our God for His people. It is a requirement of the God who is Himself JUSTICE. See Micah 6:1-8.
2. _____ → If we worship God who is just, who hates injustice, and cannot participate in it for one second and remain himself, then we as His people will also love and do justice. We will be known for it. That means those of us who know God will render justice to those who are vulnerable. Our justice will serve as a memorial in the flesh of God’s deliverance of His people. We must speak the truth about injustice and call evil by its right name. See Isaiah 1:16-18.

ACTION: Journal this!

1. What does walking with God mean to you?
2. What can you do to comfort the stressed and hurting? What wrong treatment of another has come to your attention?
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.

Deuteronomy 4:1,2 - 1 Now listen, Israel, listen carefully to the rules and regulations that I am teaching you to follow so that you may live and enter and take possession of the land that God, the God-of-Your-Fathers, is giving to you. **2** Don't add a word to what I command you, and don't remove a word from it. Keep the commands of God, your God, that I am commanding you.

James 1:22-24 - 22 Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! **23** Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, **24** walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like.

Deuteronomy 1:1-14;43-46 - 1 These are the sermons Moses preached to all Israel when they were east of the Jordan River in the Arabah Wilderness, opposite Suph, in the vicinity of Paran, Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab. **2** It takes eleven days to travel from Horeb to Kadesh Barnea following the Mount Seir route. **3** It was on the first day of the eleventh month of the fortieth year when Moses addressed the People of Israel, telling them everything God had commanded him concerning them. **4** This came after he had defeated Sihon king of the Amorites, who ruled from Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who ruled from Ashtaroth in Edrei. **5** It was east of the Jordan in the land of Moab that Moses set out to explain this Revelation. He said: **6** Back at Horeb, God, our God, spoke to us: "You've stayed long enough at this mountain. **7** On your way now. Get moving. Head for the Amorite hills, wherever people are living in the Arabah, the mountains, the foothills, the Negev, the seashore - the Canaanite country and the Lebanon all the way to the big river, the Euphrates. **8** Look, I've given you this land. Now go in and take it. It's the land God promised to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their children after them." **9** At the time I told you, "I can't do this, can't carry you all by myself. **10** God, your God, has multiplied your numbers. Why, look at you - you rival the stars in the sky! **11** And may God, the God-of-Your-Fathers, keep it up and multiply you another thousand times, bless you just as he promised. **12** But how can I carry, all by myself, your troubles and burdens and quarrels? **13** So select some wise, understanding, and seasoned men from your tribes, and I will commission them as your leaders." **14** You answered me, "Good! A good solution." **43** I told you but you wouldn't listen. You rebelled at the plain word of God. You threw out your chests and strutted into the hills. **44** And those Amorites, who had lived in those hills all their lives, swarmed all over you like a hive of bees, chasing you from Seir all the way to Hormah, a stinging defeat. **45** You came back and wept in the presence of God, but he didn't pay a bit of attention to you; God didn't give you the time of day. **46** You stayed there in Kadesh a long time, about as long as you had stayed there earlier.

Luke 4:4-12 - 4 Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: "It takes more than bread to really live." **5** For the second test he led him up and spread out all the kingdoms of the earth on display at once. **6** Then the Devil said, "They're yours in all their splendor to serve your pleasure. I'm in charge of them all and can turn them over to whomever I wish. **7** Worship me and they're yours, the whole works." **8** Jesus refused, again backing his refusal with Deuteronomy: "Worship the Lord your God and only the Lord your God.

Serve him with absolute single-heartedness." **9** For the third test the Devil took him to Jerusalem and put him on top of the Temple. He said, "If you are God's Son, jump. **10** It's written, isn't it, that 'he has placed you in the care of angels to protect you; **11** they will catch you; you won't so much as stub your toe on a stone?'" **12** "Yes," said Jesus, "and it's also written, 'Don't you dare tempt the Lord your God.'"

Ephesians 1:3-6 - 3 How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. **4** Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. **5** Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) **6** He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

Acts 17:5-9 - 5 But the hard-line Jews became furious over the conversions. Mad with jealousy, they rounded up a bunch of brawlers off the streets and soon had an ugly mob terrorizing the city as they hunted down Paul and Silas. **6** When they couldn't find them, they collared Jason and his friends instead and dragged them before the city fathers, yelling hysterically, "These people are out to destroy the world, and now they've shown up on our doorstep, attacking everything we hold dear! **7** And Jason is hiding them, these traitors and turncoats who say Jesus is king and Caesar is nothing!" **8** The city fathers and the crowd of people were totally alarmed by what they heard. **9** They made Jason and his friends post heavy bail and let them go while they investigated the charges.

Micah 6:1-8 - 1 Listen now, listen to God: "Take your stand in court. If you have a complaint, tell the mountains; make your case to the hills.

2 And now, Mountains, hear God's case; listen, Jury Earth - For I am bringing charges against my people. I am building a case against Israel.

3 "Dear people, how have I done you wrong? Have I burdened you, worn you out? Answer! **4** I delivered you from a bad life in Egypt; I paid a good price to get you out of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you - and Aaron and Miriam to boot! **5** Remember what Balak king of Moab tried to pull, and how Balaam son of Beor turned the tables on him. Remember all those stories about Shittim and Gilgal. Keep all God's salvation stories fresh and present." **6** How can I stand up before God and show proper respect to the high God? Should I bring an armload of offerings topped off with yearling calves? **7** Would God be impressed with thousands of rams, with buckets and barrels of olive oil? Would he be moved if I sacrificed my firstborn child, my precious baby, to cancel my sin? **8** But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, And don't take yourself too seriously - take God seriously.

Isaiah 1:16-18 - 16 Go home and wash up. Clean up your act. Sweep your lives clean of your evildoings so I don't have to look at them any longer. Say no to wrong. **17** Learn to do good. Work for justice. Help the down-and-out. Stand up for the homeless. Go to bat for the defenseless. Let's Argue This Out **18** "Come. Sit down. Let's argue this out." This is God's Message: "If your sins are blood-red, they'll be snow-white. If they're red like crimson, they'll be like wool.

"Battle Hymn of the Republic" by The United States Army Field Band

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword,
His truth is marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watchfires of a hundred circling camps;
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps,
His day is marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His Judgement Seat.

Oh! Be swift, my soul, to answer Him, be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
As he died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

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