



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: Knowing God Face-to-Face!

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

October 01, 2020

Bible Verses: I Peter 4:1,2; Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 62:1,2

Music: Sandi Patty - We Shall Behold Him

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZ3H3lg9NZM>

Videos: Tribute to Major Richard (Dick) Winters 101st Airborne Easy Company <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2JvA93gzh0>

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: None Like Moses – Deuteronomy 34

1. _____ → Can you imagine what Moses felt as he looked into the Promised Land? As those who are like Moses, pilgrims looking into the Promised Land, let us remember that all we long to see, all that we believe, all that in which we hope shall come true. Jesus has made it secure.
2. _____ → Moses also saw God (Deut. 34:10). According to Exodus 33:11, “Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.” For us the promise remains: “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” Matthew 5:8). This promise will be fulfilled on that day when Jesus Christ returns.
3. _____ → Even the greatest old covenant prophet had to learn his place in the kingdom is through a grace that covers all his failures. No less than all the other saints of God, Moses had to recognize the truth Augustus Toplady so beautifully expresses in the hymn *Rock of Ages*: “Not the labors of my hands can fulfill the law’s demands; could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow, all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.”

Into the Wilderness: Lessons from Moses.

1. _____ → When our behavior causes relational ruptures—actions for which we are truly guilty, including those private actions of the mind that others may not immediately be aware of—our brain will sound the alarm, if even so faintly, of the injury of relational distancing. Shame, then, is as often related to our own wounding behavior toward others and ourselves as it is about the trauma we have sustained. In John 21 Jesus did not ignore Peter’s denials. Like Peter and Moses, we need to take responsibility for our actions that prove to be disintegrating. God holds us responsible, while never leaving or abandoning us. Forgiveness is always available.
2. _____ → In order to enjoy and be engaged in healing connection to God marked by love, graciousness, honesty, understanding, loyalty and vulnerability—certain things have to be practiced in order for our hearts to mature. Four disciplines that connect us to God:
 1. _____ = Solitude leads us into a space where we are alone, a space without clutter, congestion, and demands. We are still and quiet. Soulful relationships require this kind of space. It is impossible to be with someone if we are not able to be with ourselves. Solitude forces us to be with ourselves (Psalms 62:1). Solitude provides the space to come home to ourselves and to our pain.
 2. _____ = We have to intentionally extricate ourselves from the loudness of life so we can enter a silent space. In silence we find levels of anxiety, guilt, shame and pain staring us in the face. We meet our limits and losses in profound ways. Silence provides the oxygen to experience the healing presence of the Father.
 3. _____ = We are to be mastered by Scripture, not gain mastery of the text. In contemplative reading of Scripture, we are simply listening to God. We enjoy the presence of God. Read – Reflect – Respond are the elements that are needed.
 4. _____ = We seek to listen more, than to speak. It undermines our illusion of control. It is an intention of being with God and God alone for the sake of love.
3. _____ → We need Models: guides, friends, mentors, and fathers for the journey. Life requires spiritual friendships where all parties are growing in intimate relationships. We need relationships that are increasing in levels of:

1. Attunement to the Spirit, hunger for God and surrender to His will.
2. Love for others.
3. Self-understanding and attentiveness to the voices of your inner world.
4. Curiosity about God’s creation.
5. Enjoyment of Life.
6. Discernment of your unique self-in-Christ.
7. Courage to follow your calling.
8. Depth of passion and compassion.
9. Sense of GRATITUDE.
10. Overall experience of Holiness & Wholeness.

ACTION: Journal this!

1. How is your Hope meter?
2. How are you with Intimacy?
3. Who is your Model?
4. Who do you know that is in the Wilderness?

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 34:1-12 - 1 Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the LORD showed him the whole land—from Gilead to Dan, **2** all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, **3** the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. **4** Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it." **5** And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. **6** He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. **7** Moses was a hundred and

twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. **8** The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over. **9** Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses. **10** Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, **11** who did all those signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. **12** For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Psalms 62:1,2 - 1 Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. **2** Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

"We Shall Behold Him" by Sandy Patty

The sky shall unfold
Preparing His entrance
The stars shall applaud Him
With thunders of praise

The sweet light in His eyes, shall enhance those awaiting
And we shall behold Him, then face to face

O we shall behold Him, we shall behold Him
Face to face in all of His glory
O we shall behold Him, yes we shall behold Him
Face to face, our Savior and Lord

The angel will sound, the shout of His coming
And the sleeping shall rise, from the slumbering place
And those remaining, shall be changed in a moment
And we shall behold him, then face to face

We shall behold Him, o yes we shall behold Him
Face to face in all of His glory
We shall behold Him, face to face
Our Savior and Lord
We shall behold Him, our Savior and Lord
Savior and Lord!

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

Webpage: www.bpointl.org