



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: A New Song & A Father’s Blessing!

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

September 24, 2020

Bible Verses: 1 Peter 4:1,2; Deuteronomy 32:44-47; Deuteronomy 33:1-5, 26-29; Psalm 40:1-3

Music: Phil Wickham - Song In My Soul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FX1Fjdfbg8Y>

Videos: Band of Brothers Tribute - Tell My Father

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ajwFQhTPA>

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: Take This to Heart! – Deuteronomy 32

1. _____ → Although the words of Moses in his song were designed to testify against Israel’s coming defections, the true subject of the song was the greatness of our God. Someone has said, “Let me write the music of a nation, and I do not care who writes the laws.” In other words, the songs have more influence than do the laws!
2. _____ → You can’t really love, you won’t truly love; in fact, your love will be superficial, trivial and silly unless or until you are able to see the Song of Moses as a love song. “God loves you as you are but He also loves you far too much to allow you to stay as you are.” — Tim Keller. See Psalm 40:1-3.
3. _____ → The word of God is not a trifle; it is a matter of life and death. If you treat the Scriptures as a trifle or as empty words, you forfeit life. Even our *physical* life depends on God’s word, because by his word we were created (Psalm 33:6; Hebrews 11:3), and “he upholds the universe by the word of his power” (Hebrews 1:3). And our *spiritual* life begins by the word of God: “Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth” (James 1:18). “You have been born again . . . through the living and abiding word of God” (1 Peter 1:23). Not only do we *begin* to live by God’s word, but we also *go on* living by God’s word: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3).

Into the Wilderness: To Be Blessed by the Father – Deuteronomy 33.

1. _____ → Deuteronomy 33:1 - These words, which are the last recorded words of Moses, speak of the happiness or blessedness (makarios) of Israel, who are the people uniquely saved by the Lord. Already in the Old Testament, therefore, God’s saving work provides the proper context for understanding what it means to be covenantally blessed and shows that being blessed with salvation also entails the responsibility to live according to God’s law.
2. _____ → The words of Jesus in his blessings found in the Beatitudes use the indicative imperative dynamic. It is commonly used in Scripture to refer to the covenantal blessings for the redeemed who live in accord with God’s law. The indicative—what we are—grounds the imperative—what God calls us to be. This is not new with Jesus, but was established already from the days of Moses.

Into the Wilderness: To Be Blessed - The Desires of Every Heart

In their book, *The Seven Desires of Every Heart*, Mark and Debra Laaser outline the following seven universal desires that every person has—regardless of age, gender, culture, or religious background:

1. _____ → This includes thoughts, feelings, needs, struggles, and opinions.
2. _____ → This is specific and concrete acknowledgement of someone’s strengths. This includes specific and concrete acknowledgement of one’s strengths.
3. _____ → Not only being affirmed for specific strengths and things we do well, but knowing that we are worthy and loved just for being who you are (not what you do).
4. _____ → This includes physical, mental, emotional, and sexual safety.
5. _____ → We never outgrow the need for non-sexual touch and particularly a lack of confusion between sexual and non-sexual touch.
6. _____ → You are wanted.
7. _____ → This is more of a community aspect than “to be chosen.” This is more of a community aspect than “to be chosen” above.

ACTION: Journal this!

1. How is music part of your growth?
2. From whom do you hear the words of blessing?
3. Who do you know that is 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 32:44-47 - 44 Moses came with Joshua son of Nun and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people.

45 When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel,

46 he said to them, "Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law.

47 They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess."

Deuteronomy 33:1-5, 26-29 - 1 This is the blessing that Moses the man of God pronounced on the Israelites before his death. **2** He said: "The LORD came from Sinai and dawned over them from Seir; he shone forth from Mount Paran. He came with myriads of holy ones from the south, from his mountain slopes. **3** Surely it is you who love the people; all the holy ones are in your hand. At your feet they all bow down, and from you receive

instruction, **4** the law that Moses gave us, the possession of the assembly of Jacob. **5** He was king over Jeshurun when the leaders of the people assembled, a long with the tribes of Israel. **26** "There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides across the heavens to help you and on the clouds in his majesty. **27** The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemies before you, saying, 'Destroy them!' **28** So Israel will live in safety; Jacob will dwell secure in a land of grain and new wine, where the heavens drop dew. **29** Blessed are you, Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD? He is your shield and helper and your glorious sword. Your enemies will cower before you, and you will tread on their heights."

Psalms 40:1-3 - 1 I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. **2** He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. **3** He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in him.

"Song In My Soul" by Phil Wickham

<p>There's a song in my soul And I feel it stirring in me This I know for sure That Your love is like a flood And Your mercy never ending I give my song to You There's a joy in my soul And it rises like a morning This I know for sure That Your grace is enough And Your promise never breaking I give my song to You All of Your goodness Is like a well running over And all my soul, it sings for You For all of Your goodness</p>	<p>I will love You forever All my songs, I'll sing for You Yes all my songs I'll sing for You There's a hope in my heart Burning bright in the darkness This I know for sure That I will look upon Your face Forever dwell in Your presence And all I sing to You All of Your goodness Is like a well running over And all my soul, it sings for You For all of Your goodness I will love You forever All my songs, I'll sing for You Yes all my songs I'll sing for You</p>	<p>Let my life be to You a symphony Singin' out "holy, holy" All my days, every single breath I breathe Singin' out "holy, holy" Let my life be to You a symphony Singin' out "holy, holy" All my days, every single breath I breathe Singin' out "holy, holy" For all of Your goodness Is like a well running over And all my soul, it sings for You For all of Your goodness I will love You forever All my songs I sing for You Yes all my songs I sing for You Yeah all my songs I sing for You</p>
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"Tell My Father" by Frank Wildhorn

<p>Tell my father that his son Didn't run, or surrender That I bore his name with pride As I tried to remember You are judged by what you do While passing through As I rest 'neath fields of green Let him lean on my shoulder Tell him how I spent my youth</p>	<p>So the truth could grow older Tell my father when you can I was a man Tell him we will meet again Where the angels learn to fly Tell him we will meet as men For with honor did I die Tell him how I wore the blue Proud and true, through the fire Tell my father, so he'll know</p>	<p>I love him so Tell him we will meet again Where the angels learn to fly Tell him we will meet as men For with honor did I die Tell him how I wore the blue Proud and true, like he taught me Tell my father not to cry Then say goodbye</p>
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