

Week 2: Stepping into the Wilderness-How do we get into the wilderness?

We don't intentionally look for the wilderness. Some of the reasons is it is vast with many unknowns. It is a place no one wants to enter. We know it is a place of trails, suffering, questioning, and wandering. Looking down the path leading into the wilderness, its whispers of uncertainties. It can be frightening and deafening silence.

*What lies ahead? What will I encounter? Will I be able to adapt? Will I be able to survive? How long will I be here?*

Most of the time, we avoid it if all possible. Rob Renfore in his book "A Way through the Wilderness", makes this comment.

**God wants us to depend on him alone and grow through our problems, but all too often we embrace a quick fix in hopes of forgetting our troubles and anesthetizing our pain. P 35.**

**What are your thoughts about this quote?**

If we didn't ask to enter the wilderness and weren't actively seeking it out, how do we end up here? By coincidence? By accident? By choice?

The wilderness is mysterious, challenging, scary, and sometimes dark. What is the purpose(s) of the wilderness? What are the blessings, positives of the wilderness?

**Read Deuteronomy 8:2, Job 23:10, 1 Peter 1:6-8, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10)**

**What do these scriptures tell us about the place called wilderness?**

**There are many things that will cause us to move into the desert.**

**How do we move into the wilderness?**

**Our own decision and actions? Read Numbers 14:1-20**

**What were some of the decisions or action by God people when they found themselves in the wilderness? Before, during, and after?**

**What were the consequences of their actions or decisions?**

**The great irony is you can learn to trust and obey God in the wilderness. Our decisions (when we want to control things) is one of the ways we get into the wilderness.**

**What happens when we don't have control? What about the actions of others?**

**Read 1 King 19:14**

**What drive Elijah into the wilderness?**

**What might be a benefit for us to enter the wilderness?**

The wilderness can be a time of awakening to see what is holding us back.

**There are things in life that take us into the wilderness. The flow of life, the ups and downs can move you into the wilderness. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8,**

**How can life take us into the wilderness?**

**What can the wilderness teach us?**

When you think about wilderness stories, who takes us into the wilderness? Somethings our own decisions, the actions of other, or the rhythm of life, ultimately the wilderness is a place the Lord calls us into, willingly.

**Read: Mark 1:1-11, Matthew 4:1-11**

When we think of the baptism of Jesus, it was the Holy Spirit who led him into the wilderness to be tested.

What can we learn from Jesus's wilderness journey?

**The blessing of the wilderness is you will discover God will not allow the wilderness to overcome you. He is working! He is moving! He is still here!**

How does scripture help us to journey in the wilderness? Read (1 Peter 4:12-13). (2 Corinthians 1:3-5), (Isaiah 43:19)

Don't be afraid of entering this vast unknown! Jesus is here, and He will sustain you through the highs and the lows, through the nights and the days, for He will make a way!