

# Our Wilderness Journey

## 8/1/18

### Introduction:

One of my dreams is coming true... trip in the wilderness...mountains.  
God used a wilderness journey for Ancient Israelites to teach important lessons.  
Christ went into the wilderness (solitude, prayer, meditation)....and gave many teachings from the creation.

**SPS** – This morning, the topic of the Bible study is **Our Wilderness Journey**

Title: **Our Wilderness Journey**

*Note: Four lessons we can learn from a wilderness journey*

### Body:

#### 1) **First lesson:**

Time of personal and group challenge and testing of our preparation (physically & mentally)

*Note: God is watching how we handle challenges and testing....*

#### **James 1:2-3**

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;  
Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

*Note: facing challenges, trials and tests are good for us....good for developing Godly character.*

Preparation for this Adventure Trip is critical....we have each been given much information on how to prepare for this trip.

*Note: if we didn't prepare well... "may have to drag you or me up a mountain"*

*Preparation is one of the laws of success.*

*Our training for this trip will be tested...was it adequate?*

#### **Matt.7:24-27**

##### **vs:24**

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

##### **vs:25**

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

##### **vs:26**

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

##### **vs:27**

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Physical conditioning and proper gear is very important for this wilderness trip.

*Note: To the degree we prepared for this is....whether poor or very well is the degree we can have a more enjoyable trip ...not just barely enduring it.*

**Matt. 25:1-8, 13**

**vs:1-8**

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish.

They that *were* foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

**vs:13**

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

*Note: One lesson this parable teaches is the importance of spiritual preparation. The foolish didn't prepare and have extra oil ...but the wise did prepare and had extra oil.*

**2) Second Lesson:**

Time in a wilderness has a way of humbling us (gives us special perspective).

**Psa. 8:3-6**

**vs:3-6**

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all *things* under his feet:

*Note: David looked up in the night sky...same one you and I will see on our wilderness journey. Contemplated on what is man...our purpose in life....*

*Anytime we are reminded how small we are and how big and great God is...(very good for us)*

**I Sam. 15:17**

And Samuel said, When thou *wast* little in thine own sight, *wast* thou not *made* the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?

*Note: When we are little in our own eyes God can work with us...use us. But we are not humble ...God can't use us.*

*True humility...Godly humility is a key factor (quality) to have a relationship with God and other human beings.*

**I Pet.5:5-6**

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

*Note: God wants us to be clothed with humility (like have proper clothing & gear) for this Adventure Trip.*

*We all will have lots of opportunity to exercise humility toward God and each other. Serving one another in humility please God.*

*Much easier to love and respect others when we're humble!*

### **3) Third Lesson:**

A trip in the wilderness resets priorities (refreshed mentally, emotionally and spiritually).

*Note: Traveled here on a plane with a high school principle and his wife a teacher at same school. Do you know what the number 1 concern they have in 2018?*

*Mental health among the youth. Suicide is on the rise and many youth are struggling with mental health today as never before.*

Being in a wilderness setting ....away from hectic and busy schedules is a good time to be reminded of what really matters in life!

What is really important after all? What really matters?

*Note: We often find ourselves fretting and worrying over small things...sometimes unimportant matters.*

### **Luke 5:16**

And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

*Note: Christ got away from the crowds ...went to a wilderness to pray, meditate and focus on what really matters.*

### **Ecc.12:12-13**

And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books *there is* no end; and much study *is* a weariness of the flesh.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.

*Note: King Solomon did everything, tried everything ... didn't hold from anything he desired. His conclusion (inspired by God) was....**Fear God and keep His commandments!***

*"At the end of the day".....It's what really matters in life!*

### **4) Fourth Lesson:**

Time in the wilderness gives us a unique opportunity to draw closer to God and an awareness that God is with us.

### **Psa. 139:2-9**

#### **vs:2-3**

Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted *with* all my ways.

*Note: Those of us who are parents... we know our kids from a distance. We know their walk and shape. Your parents know you more than you think!*

*God ultimately knows us and everything about us.*

**vs:4-10**

For *there is* not a word in my tongue, *but*, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.  
Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.  
*Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot *attain* unto it.  
Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?  
If I ascend up into heaven, thou *art* there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou *art there*.  
*If* I take the wings of the morning, *and* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;  
Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

*Note: No matter where we are, how remote in a wilderness...God is there and He knows what we're doing.*

**vs:11-12**

If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.  
Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light *are* both alike *to thee*.

*Note: Anyone afraid of the dark?  
Darkness doesn't matter with God ...He is always there!*

**Heb.13:5**

*Let your conversation be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

*Note: God will never leave or forsake us... but we can forsake God!*

**Acts 17:24-27**

God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;  
Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;  
And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;  
That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

*Note: Our journey in the wilderness is an excellent time to draw closer to God in His awesome creation...make time to pray each day, think about God's beautiful creation and He is right there with us!*

## **Conclusion:**

Our wilderness journey ....so exciting and amazing lessons for each of us individually and together as group.

We will have bonds (family) that this trip will bring that maybe nothing else could in the same way.

Review of the four lessons:

- 1) Time of personal and group challenge and testing
- 2) Wilderness reminds us how small we are – how great God is. A humbling experience that is good for us.
- 3) Time to reset our priorities ...remember what really matters!
- 4) Draw closer to God...most of all that we develop a deeper awareness of God as a result of our wilderness journey in a special beautiful part of His awesome creation!

Enjoy every moment of this wonderful Adventure Trip we are about to begin!