

VICTORY IN THE WILDERNESS

Isa 35:1-10 READ

I. vs 1 “The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad”

A. All of us experience times in life and ministry when we walk thru a spiritual Wilderness and wasteland...before we see victory & blessings manifest:

1. Israel had to go by the way of the wilderness, before they entered their Promise land

a. As you know: They reacted poorly to the tests the wilderness brings and They stayed in the wilderness forty years & an entire generation died in the wilderness

2. Joseph: had to first go to the pit before he ever seen the destiny of his palace

3. Even Jesus had to go thru a wilderness experience:

a. Matt 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil

(1) Note: “Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness” / DWELL!!!!!!

(2) Purpose of the wilderness:

Deut 8: 2a: And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you All the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you,

(a) and **here is the test:**

(1) Deut 8: 2b to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

(2) Anyone can live for God on the mountain tops of life

(a) But how do you live for The Lord in the midst of the valley of life and wilderness experiences

B. If we pass these spiritual tests:

1. and **humble our self**

a. 1 Peter 5: Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

2. and **Keep God’s commandments / word**

a. Deut 30:15 "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil,

16 in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in

His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may **live and multiply**; and the LORD your God will **bless you** in the land which you go to

3. We can see the promises of Isa 35:1 come to pass:
 - a. “The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them...(you and I)
The desert shall rejoice and blossom abundantly as a rose”
 - (1) Life can manifest in our spiritual wilderness & desert
 - (2) our wilderness / desert can blossom abundantly
 - (a) areas of our life & ministry that seemingly were dead come alive with
 - (1) The Latter rain of the Holy Spirit you have been asking for suddenly
Begins to be poured out upon you according to / Zech 10:1
 - (b) what was once dry & arid....comes alive with:
 - (1) the times of refreshing from the presence of The Lord Acts 3:19
 - (2) Isa 35:6 For **waters will break forth in the wilderness**
And streams in the Arabah.
4. The bible even promises us that we can see the **glory** of God manifest while in the midst of a wilderness
 - a. vs 2 “They shall see they **glory** of The Lord & the **Excellency** of our God:
 - (1) **Def Glory**: kabowd / weightiness/ speaking of a heavy presence of God
Manifesting / a tangible presence of The Lord
 - (2) **Def Excellency**: magnificence, splendor, majesty, beauty

II. vs 3 – 10 describes the actions of a believer & their victorious walk thru the wilderness: because they have humbled themselves & kept the God’s commandments / word

A. Isa 35:3 Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees.

1. They **strengthen their hands**:

a. Ps 144:1 Blessed be the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war,
And my fingers for battle --

(1) in the midst of the wilderness: don’t give up in defeat

(a) strengthen your hands....because God has trained your hands for war / spiritual warfare & to win spiritual battles

2. Do you know how to use your hands & fingers in the midst of spiritual warfare?
 - a. If you **play an instrument**: take your fingers and begin to prophesy on that instrument
 - (b) 1 Chron 25:1 Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should **prophesy** with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals.
 - (2) Play that instrument until the anointing of the Holy Ghost rests upon You & then penetrates the very atmosphere
 - (a) David played his harp and ministered to Saul to relieve him from the torment of evil spirits 1 Sam 16:23
 - (b) Elisha asked for a minstrel, who then played his instrument and it stirred up the prophetic gift in Elisha to prophesy
 - b. Do warfare with your hands by raising them in **praise** unto The Lord
 - (1) Ps 134:2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, And bless the LORD
 - c. Take your hands & do warfare against sickness & disease:
 - (1) Mark 16:18 they will **lay hands on the sick**, and they will recover."
 - d. Lay your hands on the possessed & oppressed & set them free
 - (1) Mark 16:17 In My name they will **cast out demons**;
 - e. Lay your hands on an individual & impart peace & speak a blessing
 - (1) as we seen Jesus do many times in the Gospels

B. vs 3 **“Make firm the feeble knees”**.....note how this is accomplished:

1. Isa 35:4 **Say** to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear
 - a. or in other words **speak the Word** to the fearful
 - b. **Confess the word** toward your fears
 - (1) 2 Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

C. Listen as to why we can: Strengthen our hands / make firm feeble knees / tell People not to fear:

1. Isa 35:4 Behold, your God will come with vengeance,
 With the recompense of God; He will come and save you."
 - a. In the midst of your wilderness..."**Your God will come**" ...He will come and save you

- (1) **Def Save:** rescue, free, avenge, defend, rescue, preserve, get victory
 - 2. Isa 35:4 states that God will come with **recompense** / pay back the devil for what he has done to you
 - a. Rom 16:20 And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.
 - (1) I like this pay back: “**crush Satan under my feet**”
 - (a) Luke 10:19 Behold, I give you the authority to **trample** on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.
- D. Isa 35:5 Then the **eyes** of the blind will be opened,
And the **ears** of the deaf will be unstopped.
- 6 Then the **lame** will leap like a deer,
And the **tongue** of the dumb will shout for joy.
- 1. This passage of scripture is literally talking about miracles manifesting in the lives of the blind,, deaf, lame, dumb
 - a. In the midst of a wilderness experience, God desires to use you and I with His mighty power & anointing
 - b. The Holy Spirit desires to manifest His gifts through our lives to touch the lives of the lost & hurting
 - 2. This passage also has spiritual implications:
 - a. **Eyes of the blind:** also speaks of our spiritual eyes
 - (1) As we humble ourselves & walk in obedience in the midst of the wilderness
 - (3) our spiritual eyes will be open to fresh revelation
 - (a) Eph 1:17 The Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,
18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;
 - 3. **Ears of the death:** speaks of our spiritual ears
 - a. Ears that can hear the voice of God
 - b. ears that our sensitive to The Holy Spirit
 - (1) **Philip** the evangelist heard the voice of the Holy Spirit as he was directed to minister to the Ethiopian
 - (a) Acts 8:29 Then the **Spirit said to Philip**, "Go near and overtake this chariot."

(2) As **Peter** was on the roof of a house praying, he heard the Holy Spirit spoke to him to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the gentiles:

(a) Acts 10:19 While Peter thought about the vision, **the Spirit said to him**, "Behold, three men are seeking you.

20 Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them."

(3) seven times Jesus speaks to every believer in the book of Revelation and says:

(a) Rev 2:11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

4. **the lame will leap like a deer**: speaks of our walk with God

a. Instead of being limited by spiritual strongholds...the word says:

(1) 2 Sam 22:30 For by You I can run against a troop;

By my God I can leap over a wall. (**spiritual strongholds**)

(2) 2 Cor 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

(3) Gal 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

5. **The tongue of the dumb**: speaks of our spirit man:

a. Isa 50:4 "The Lord GOD has given Me The **tongue of the learned**, That I should know how to speak. A word in season to him who is weary.

(1) Tongue of the learned....speaking a word in season to the weary can be:

(a) speaking a prophetic word

(b) speaking a word of knowledge or word of wisdom

(c) speaking an encouraging word...to a weary soul

(d) speaking in tongues

III. Isa 35:8 A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the **Highway of Holiness**. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray.

A. The Highway of Holiness is the only spiritual road that you can journey on

1. that will lead you out of the wilderness and into your Promise land / into your destiny

B. “the unclean shall not pass over it “

1. As long as we remain carnal in our walk with God, and allow the flesh to dominate our life style
 - a. The Holy Spirit will not allow you to journey on the Highway of Holiness
 - b. Instead, like Israel....we prolong our wilderness experience

C. The first lesson Moses learned during his wilderness experience was that God Is a Holy God.....,and demands holiness of His people:

1. Ex 3:4 So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

5 Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is **holy ground**.

a. Moses was standing in the presence of a Holy God

b. and God told him **take off your sandals from your feet**

(1) The Lord was not just dealing with Moses sandals

(2) But God was **dealing with Moses walk in life** & demanding that it become holy

(3) have you taken your sandals off since you met Jesus:

(a) are you walking holy

(4) 1 Pet 1:16 “Be ye holy, for I am holy”

(5) Have you consecrated your life in holiness unto The Lord

(a) if not, your cannot pass over the Highway of holiness & come out of your wilderness into your destiny / promise land

(b) But, if you have allowed The Blood of Jesus to wash away your sin

(c) Have you allowed the Holy Spirit to deliver you from those habits Of the flesh

(d) If, you have allowed the Holy Spirit to wash you with the water of the word & sanctify your life.....you will see victory like never before

D. Isa 35:9 No lion shall be there, Nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; It (lion) shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there,

1. 1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the **devil** walks about like a **roaring lion**, seeking whom he may devour.⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith

a. Guess what road the devil does not travel on

(1) The Highway of Holiness

2. Isa 35:9 says “no lion.....nor ravenous beasts go up to it”

a. speaking of the devil & demon spirits

(1) demon spirits do not travel on the Highway of Holiness

(2) But angels do!!!!!!!!!!

(1) So the spiritual highway you travel on will determine who is accompanying you on your spiritual journey in life:

(a) The Lion of the tribe of Judah: JESUS

(1) or the devil.....who seeks to devour those not travelling on the Highway of Holiness

(2) The angels / God’s ministering spirits

(a) or demons who harass those not walking on the highway of holiness

3. “But the **REDEEMED** shall walk there” / highway of holiness

a. Rev 5:9 For You (Jesus) were slain, And have **redeemed** us to God by Your blood

(1)How many here have been REDEEMED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS

(2) If so, then we are to walk on the **HIGHWAY OF HOLINESS**

F. Isa 35:10 10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,

And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads.

They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

1. **The Ransomed:** The Blood Bought Christian

2. “**Shall return to Zion**”

a. Heb 12:22 But you have come to **Mount Zion** and to the **city of the living God**, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

23.The general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven,

(1) People / believers **returning to Mt Zion** / city of the living God.....

(a) Returning to the presence of The Lord

(3) Returning to The **Church of the first born**

(a) Returning to the **church that preaches**”

(1) New Birth / Born Again

(2) The Cross of Jesus Christ

(3) The Blood of Jesus Christ

3. Note how they return:

- a. Singing.....praising / worshipping
 - (1) singing the song of the lamb: Rev 15:3
 - (2) singing a new song: Ps 96:1 & 98:1
- b. filled with joy & gladness
- c. Return to Zion **with things missing from their life**, that the devil had once laid upon them:
 - (1) **“sorrow & sighing shall flee away”**
 - (a) **Def sorrow:** affliction, grief, vex
 - (b) **Def sighing:** mourning, groaning
 - (1) because of the price Jesus paid on Calvary’s Cross....sorrow and sighing flee away: Isa 53:3 & 4
 - (2) They have fled away because of a revelation they have received in the Wilderness of the price Jesus paid on Calvary’s Cross for you & I to be free from a life of sorrow & sighing
 - (a) Isa 53:4 Surely He / **Jesus** has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.
 - (1) So instead now I sing his praises...with a heart filled with joy
 - (2) The more I praise The Lord...the more sorrow flees
 - (3) The more I worship God...the more grief flees away

IV. Have you learned your spiritual lessons in the wilderness?

A. Have you humbled your self before God?

1. The first way you humble yourself before God is to **REPENT** & become Born Again
2. If Born Again, have you humbled yourself before The Lord by:
 - a. surrendering your will to God’s will for your life

B. Have you discerned what is in your heart?

1. Are you living according to **The Word of God**?

C. Are you walking on a highway called **holiness**?

1. Living Holy for Jesus
2. no longer living for the devil
3. no longer allowing the flesh to dominate your life with sin & carnality

D. That is what it takes to see your wilderness burst forth like streams in a Desert

1. With the living waters of the Holy Spirit

a. Jesus will satisfy your thirsty soul

(a) Isa 35:6 “Waters shall break forth in the wilderness”:

(1) Holy Ghost waters

(2) living waters

(3) healing waters

(4) Latter Day rain out pouring of waters

(1) Breaking forth in your wilderness