

(4-19-15)

**THE WILDERNESS & THE GATE:
BALANCING SEPARATION AND WITNESS**

TEXT: Song of Solomon 7:13 The mandrakes give a smell, and **at our gates** are all manner of pleasant fruits, new and old, which I have laid up for thee, O my beloved.
8:5 Who is this that cometh **up from the wilderness**, leaning upon her beloved?...

Isaiah 41:18 I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make **the wilderness** a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.
19 I will plant in **the wilderness** the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together:

Jeremiah 4:26 I beheld, and, lo, **the fruitful place** was a **wilderness**, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger.

Psalms 107:4 They wandered in **the wilderness** in a solitary way; they found **no city** to dwell in.

Jeremiah 23:10 For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; **the pleasant places of the wilderness** are dried up...

Isaiah 42:11 Let the **wilderness and the cities thereof** lift up their voice...

1 Samuel 23:15 And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life: and David was in the **wilderness** of Ziph **in a wood**.

1. A wilderness is often a testing time:

Deuteronomy 8:16 Who fed thee in **the wilderness** with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and **that he might prove thee**, to do thee good at thy latter end;

2. It is often a time of preparation, or training (sometimes discipline):

Acts 7:29 Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Madian, where he begat two sons.

30 And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.

Galatians 1:17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

3. The wilderness of often a place of refuge or safety, in times of persecution:

Revelation 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might **fly into the wilderness**, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, **from** the face of the serpent.

Matthew 24:16 Then let them which be in Judaea **flee into the mountains**:

Jeremiah 31:2 Thus saith the LORD, The people which were left of the sword **found grace in the wilderness...**

1 Samuel 23:15 And David saw that Saul was come out **to seek his life**: and David was in the **wilderness** of Ziph in a wood.

Song of Solomon 2:14 O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs...

John 11:53 Then from that day forth they took counsel together for **to put him to death**.
54 Jesus therefore walked **no more openly** among the Jews; but went thence unto a country **near to the wilderness...**

Proverbs 22:3 A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself...

4. The wilderness is also often a place of separation from sin and worldliness, and the judgments which they bring forth:

Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Proverbs 21:19 It is better to **dwell in the wilderness**, than with a contentious and an angry woman.

Genesis 19:12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, **bring them out of this place**:

17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; **escape to the mountain**, lest thou be consumed.

Jeremiah 51:45 My people, **go ye out of the midst of her**, and deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce anger of the LORD.

Hebrews 13:12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered **without the gate**.

13 Let us **go forth therefore unto him without the camp**, bearing his reproach.

14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

Jesus grew up in rural, mountain regions.

He was baptized in the wilderness.

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tried.

He often withdrew to the wilderness, to pray.

He was crucified outside the camp.

He was buried in the same place, outside the camp.

He resurrected in the same place, outside the camp.

His people, who He dwells in, often have to flee to the wilderness.

8:5 Who is this that cometh up from the **wilderness, leaning upon her beloved?**...

Jude 1:12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear...

16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts...

Matthew 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Genesis 19:1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and **Lot sat in the gate** of Sodom...

Genesis 18:22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.

23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

Psalms 127:4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall **speak with the enemies in the gate**.

Isaiah 29:21 That make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for **him that reproveth in the gate**, and turn aside the just for a thing of nought.

Amos 5:10 They hate him that **rebuketh in the gate**, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly.

Proverbs 1:21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, **in the openings of the gates:** in the city she uttereth her words, saying,
22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?
23 Turn you at my reproof...

Proverbs 8:2 She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.
3 **She crieth at the gates**, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.
5 O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

Proverbs 31:23 Her husband is **known in the gates**...
31...let her own works **praise her in the gates**.

Proverbs 31:8 **Open thy mouth** for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.
9 Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.
11 If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain;
12 If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it?...

Proverbs 24:7 Wisdom is too high for a fool: he **openeth not his mouth in the gate**.

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