



Come away to the wilderness

# wilderness

of uncertain affinity; lonesome, i.e. (by implication) waste: KJV - desert, desolate, solitary, wilderness.



# Why do we end up in the wilderness?

- **Stubborn disobedience**

Num 14:28 Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: 29 The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. 30 Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. 31 But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised. 32 But as for you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness.'

# Why do we end up in the wilderness?

- **God does it for our sake**

Ex 13:17 Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, "Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt." 18 So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea.

# Why do we end up in the wilderness?

- **God may be calling us to a place of fruitful ministry**

Matt 3:1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'"

4 Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

# Why do we end up in the wilderness?

- It may be a time of testing to reveal who we are

Ps 105:17 and he sent a man before them — Joseph, sold as a slave.

**18** They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons, **19** till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the Lord proved him true.

# Why do we end up in the wilderness?

- **Jesus often chose the wilderness himself**  
Luke 5:15 However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. 16 So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

# What happens when we are in the wilderness?

- **Sometimes we forget God**

Ps 106:7-22

When our fathers were in Egypt, they gave no thought to your miracles; they did not remember your many kindnesses, and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea.

...

**13** But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his counsel. **14** In the desert they gave in to their craving; in the wasteland they put God to the test.

...

- **21** They forgot the God who saved them, who had done great things in Egypt, **22** miracles in the land of Ham and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.



# What happens when we are in the wilderness?

- **Sometimes we fail (even Moses failed)**

Num 20:12 But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."

# What's good about the wilderness?

- **The distractions are minimized**
- Jesus often retreated to the wilderness to seek God's face.
- To get away from the crowds
- To get his Father's direction

# What's good about the wilderness?

- **God will show himself strong**

Ex 14:3 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.' 4 Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD."

# How should we respond when we're in the wilderness?

- Remember that God is with us
- If you need to repent – do it quickly!
- Seek God's face
- Ask for Him to move on your behalf
- Don't give in to loneliness, anxiety, frustration
- Look for ways to serve others – avoid the pit
- Focus on being thankful

