

-He longs to tell us about the Bridegroom. He longs to impart to us revelation.

-We learn to cooperate with Him and obey Him.

-We recognize that He has all the Father's resources and gifts at His disposal and will provide for us and protect us through the wilderness journey.

John 16:13-14 AMP – (13) But when He, the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message (on His own authority); but He will tell whatever he hears from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him, and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come (that will happen in the future). (14) He will honor and glorify Me, because He will take of (receive, draw upon) what is Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you.

CONCLUSION

-We are faced with two questions:

1. Is God good?
2. Do I trust Him?

A SEASON OF MATURATION

Part 3 – A Wilderness Season

February 25, 2007 – Debby Baril

Destiny Christian Church (450) 676-6944 www.destinychurch.ca

INTRODUCTION

Hosea 2:14-16 AMP – (14) Therefore, behold, I will allure her and bring her into the wilderness, and I will speak tenderly and to her heart. (15) There I will give her her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor (troubling) to be for her a door of hope and expectation. And she shall sing there and respond as in the days of her youth and as at the time when she came up out of the land of Egypt. (16) And it shall be in that day, says the Lord, that you will call Me Ishi (my Husband) and you shall no more call Me Baali (my Baal-master).

I. A PLACE OF INTIMACY

-God Himself allures us into the wilderness.

-Allure is a tender, even seductive word.

-The passion of God becomes visible to us in this passage.

-The wilderness is a place where we are removed from all distractions.

-He brings us into the wilderness to speak deep things into our spirits that would not be heard in any other place.

II. A PLACE OF RESTORATION

-God wants to restore and reaffirm our destiny and purpose. It's a place where He gets us back on track.

Jeremiah 29:11 MSG - (11) I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out--plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. (12) When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen. (13) When you come looking for me, you'll find me. Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, (14) I'll make sure you won't be disappointed.

-God will turn the Valley of Achor into a place of expectation and hope.

-God can take the very sin that has hindered you and turn it around to make it a door of hope and expectation.

-Familiarity will be replaced with fresh thanksgiving and worship.

III. A PLACE OF DEPENDENCE

-We have 2 choices – depend on self and die, or depend on God and live.

Isaiah 50:10-11 AMP – Who is among you who reverently fears the Lord, who obeys the voice of His Servant, yet who walks in darkness and deep trouble and has no shining splendor in his heart? Let him rely on, trust in, and be confident in the name of the Lord, and let him lean up on and be supported by his God. (11) Behold, all you enemies of your own selves who attempt to kindle your own fires and work out your own plans of salvation, who surround and gird yourselves

with momentary sparks, darts and firebrands that you set aflame! - walk by the light of your self-made fire and of the sparks that you have kindled for yourself, if you will! But this shall you have from My hand; you shall lie down in grief and in torment.

-We learn to depend on His provision and His power.

Luke 5:15-16 AMP – (15) But so much the more the news spread abroad concerning Him, and great crowds kept coming together to hear Him and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. (16) But He Himself withdrew in retirement to the wilderness and prayed.

-The purpose of our walk is not greater ministry but greater intimacy!

-God wants us dependent on Him for everything that we need – protection, provision, presence, power.

IV. A PLACE OF SEPARATION

-He separates us from past lovers and loves, from false gods.

II Corinthians 11:2 AMP – For I am zealous for you with a godly eagerness and a divine jealousy, for I have betrothed you to one Husband, to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

V. A PLACE OF DISCOVERY

-In the wilderness we can learn to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and develop our relationship with Him.