

Sermon: Wilderness Survival Tip – Run Out so You Can Get Some (Manna) Part 1

Exodus 16

And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt. ² And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: ³ And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

The journey continues. This is our story and this is the plan for Cloverdale, and this is how God wants to work out His plan in your life. On your way to the Promise Land and God's best season, you have to go by way of the wilderness.

- Wilderness – this is the season between your last trouble and your best season. Between your worse and God's best. It is called transition. You are not where you used to be but not where God ultimately wants to bring you into. You are in much better position than you used to be, but not there yet.
- Wilderness and transition is not always easy.....but it is part of the process and journey.

Pay attention, as you go through this journey in life in the pursuit of God's best, you will need to experience what Israel went through before reaching the Promised Land.

This is the wilderness. You just don't walk into the Promised Land, you gotta go through the wilderness. You don't just graduate, you gotta go through classes and studying. You don't just become a superstar, you gotta go through something. We are not going to just walk into our best season, before we go through a season of preparation. You just don't get beamed to Disney Land, you are going to have to drive some miles and take some time before you get there.

Everyone came this way, between Elim and Sinai. Only 30 days after they left Egypt.....so it wasn't many days they run into another wall. The food supplies that they had brought with them from Egypt had just run out. What they had gathered on their own, what they have saved was about to run out.

Let's look at the facts closely as all of this takes place in transition.

- Their situation and circumstances cause them to complain. They were fine until they ran out of their own supplies and found themselves in need.
- Their complaint is against the leaders but they don't realize they are really complaining against God.
- They get delirious.....crazy talk occurs, they say it was better for God to kill them in Egypt than to lead them to freedom only to be in the wilderness and die out there of hunger.

- Once you have been a slave and tasted freedom; ask someone if it is better to struggle and trust in God in the wilderness or go back to bondage.
- Better to be in prison, or in the wilderness waiting on God.
- Better to not have a degree, or be in the wilderness working toward one.
- Better to be unemployed, or in the wilderness waiting for God to work it out in this job.
- Better to be back into your addiction than to be in recovery.
- Better to be in hell, than in the wilderness trusting in God to bring you through.
- I would rather be where I am in God right now, than back to being who I was.
- All of this happens in our wilderness seasons.
- Duet 8 – teaches dependence on God

So to when you begin to enter recovery from your last season of mistakes, you can expect the same thing.

- When you run out of things you need and run out of hope, you will start complaining too.
- You will focus on what is missing and what you don't have becomes more important than what you do have....the promises of God.
- You start to ignore or forget everything else that He has done for you along the way.
- You will forget the objective of the plan and distrust God.
- You will complain about the leadership and not realize you are really complaining about God.
- Distrust of God to only complain about the present problem.
- Greatly undervalue your deliverance.
- Ingratitude and impatience.
- Selective memory; lost sight of God's future for them and celebrating being in bondage.
- People may forget about the plan and the purpose, He didn't bring them out this far to kill them there...that's not God's plan.
- Fear and doubt due to circumstances.

And what was the greater feat, their deliverance from bondage in Egypt or getting them something to eat? One of the greatest miracles in my life was getting saved in the first place. When that happened the other things I'm dealing with should be easier than that.

If I can trust Him to save me and keep me from suicide, I know He can and will provide this need.

⁴ Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. ⁵ And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily. ⁶ And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the Lord hath brought you out from the land of Egypt: ⁷ And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the Lord; for that he heareth your murmurings against the Lord: and what are we, that ye murmur against us? ⁸ And Moses said, This shall be, when the Lord shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the Lord heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord. ⁹ And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the Lord: for he hath heard your murmurings. ¹⁰ And it

came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, ¹² I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God.

The Lord has an answer to their complaining; bread from heaven will rain down. He would provide for them in a manner they would not understand. When He did His part, there was something they needed to do....needed to go out and gather what He provided.

Let's look at this closely.

- What they needed will come down from heaven in abundance.
- It will be provided daily.
- They are given instructions for how to find it, gather it, and manage it.
- The way it happens is to prove and remind them that He is the one who delivered them before....because they must have forgotten.
- There is a reason why they will only get a certain rate each day.
- There is a reason why they are given specific instructions to follow. There was a role they had to play in the miracle. Wasn't going to just drop it in their lap....they needed to go out and get it.
- The instructions are a test to see whether the people will obey God.
- Further immediate instructions, when you get busted, draw closer to Him.
- He is still with you in the wilderness even though you might be in need.
- After they draw near, God will show you His glory in the wilderness. You should be encouraged because He still will show up in your wilderness. Your wilderness will produce glory and is about and for the glory of God. Your hardship provides God the opportunity to demonstrate His power and love.
- He wants to fill them up....even in the wilderness.
- It is designed to prove and help them to understand that He is their God.

Verse 9 – told to come nearer to God because He has heard them complaining. When you realize that you messed up.....don't run away....get closer to God. What you do in secret, He knows.

- Do the opposite of your human or Adam nature, don't hide from Him when you've done wrong....instead run to Him.

Verse 12 – He will provide for them...confirmation again so that they can be sure that He is God....their God. How can I know He is my God? Cause He has, is, and will provide.

Questions to Ask and Observations:

There must be a reason why God allowed their food to run out.

- As long as they were relying on their own strength, they would never learn to trust Him for their supply.

- You never know what is really in you or how you will respond until you go through a tough time and it brings out and reveals what is hidden inside.
- Fear, is the enemy of your success. Fear, causes you to forget the goodness of God and have you doubt He will deliver you. He had to place them in a situation where they had to learn to trust Him even in the tough times.
- It was to produce obedience to His commandments.

Sermon Wilderness Survival Part 2

Exodus 16:14 – 33; John Chapter 6

¹⁴ And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. ¹⁵ And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat. ¹⁶ This is the thing which the Lord hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, according to the number of your persons; take ye every man for them which are in his tents. ¹⁷ And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less. ¹⁸ And when they did mete it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating. ¹⁹ And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the morning. ²⁰ Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them.

When they saw it, they called it manna because they didn't know what it was.

³¹ And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

They were expecting something else. They were perhaps looking for chicken and waffles and instead they are looking at frosted flakes. Looking for wonder bread and instead they got cereal. God might provide what you need but it might not look like what you expected.

- Don't be disappointed, if God provided it, take it so you don't miss it. They missed Jesus like that.
- Just because it doesn't happen like you expected doesn't mean it is not the answer to your problem.

Moses had to explain to them what it was that came from God. Didn't look like what they were expecting. But what came down from God, they were supposed to use and take in and eat.

Some observations for our benefit:

- Reminded that these are the instructions from God Himself. He will always provide further instructions as you progress through this journey.
- Obedience still important. When they did what God said, they were filled and it worked out well....worked out the way it was designed.
- When they disobeyed, it didn't go well and what they were trying to hold onto bred undesirable results and stank.
 - When you don't obey His instructions or do His will, what you try to hang onto won't be of much good to you; what was good one day, will spoil and stink the next day.
 - Don't be funky.
- Why would they try and save it? Lack of faith. So, I can have it available just in case I don't get fresh manna tomorrow. Still didn't fully trust that God would deliver like He said on the next day.
- Learn to trust Him daily....give us this day our daily bread. If He gives me more, then I might not trust Him for tomorrow.

²³ And he said unto them, This is that which the Lord hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Lord: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. ²⁴ And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein.

²⁶ Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none.

²⁷ And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none. ²⁸ And the Lord said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?

After all that God has proven to them, why would they still disobey and go out looking for something God said wouldn't be there? Perhaps fear and unbelief.

- Just because He did it for me yesterday, He might not do it for me again.

Just trust and obey by faith. When they obeyed, it worked out well. Stuff didn't spoil and no funky stuff.

The question is still one that God asks of us today....How long will we refuse to keep His commandments? How long will we let fear and doubt keep us from trusting Him?

What is your answer?

The wilderness is uncomfortable and scary, but He will show you how to depend on Him and He promises to be with you. The awesome and all-powerful Father we have is with you so don't freak out. Just wait on God...the answer and relief are on the way.

³² And Moses said, This is the thing which the Lord commandeth, Fill an omer of it to be kept for your generations; that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you forth from the land of Egypt.

³³ And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the Lord, to be kept for your generations. ³⁴ As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept.

Verse 32 - 33 – instructions to take a pot of manna and store it before God to be kept for the benefit of future generations. So they can actually see what was used to sustain them in the wilderness. God wanted future folks to be fully aware of what and how He provided for them in that place. I need some of this manna.

- Proof of how He provided for them...a miracle every day.
- It is a testimony...we need to share with others so they can make it through as well.

Why do I care about what happened to these people in the wilderness? What does their experience have to do with me? It has everything to do with your success. We need, what God gave them if we are to get through this.....we need manna. Where is the manna that I need for my wilderness situation?

Jesus the day before has just fed the multitude of 5,000 with a boy's lunch.

John 6

²⁶ Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. ²⁷ Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. ²⁸ Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

²⁹ Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

³⁰ They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? ³¹ Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

- They are bragging about the manna from heaven. That is the reference point and testimony they have from their parents.

³² Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. ³⁴ Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

³⁵ And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.

- Amazing, they are looking Him in the eyeball and still not believing....still missing the mark.

⁴⁰ And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

⁴¹ The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.

⁴² And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?

- They knew where he came from in the natural, but didn't have a clue about the super natural working in him. Don't be discouraged because folk don't see you like that, God will take your natural and make it super.

⁴⁷ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. ⁴⁸ I am that bread of life.

⁴⁹ Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. ⁵⁰ This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. ⁵⁶ He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

Don't get it twisted. Because they got confused looking at this only in the natural. They missed that this is a metaphor or example to explain the spiritual application.

You don't literally eat Jesus, you receive Him through belief. When you believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus and receive it in your heart, then just like the manna provided for them in the wilderness, Jesus provides for us today. Only Jesus is better than manna.

Jesus lives inside of me because I believe and trust in Him!

Manna only fell in the morning, we can have Jesus every day.

Manna, Jesus says it is a picture of him. Manna speaks to Jesus and the bread of the word of God. The way you feed on Him is by believing in Jesus as Savior. By faith we believe and this faith comes by hearing the word of God. Word that gives life.

Need to feed on Christ daily by believing on him daily.

We are no different. We walk the same spiritual wilderness in this world, but have a greater leader than Moses guiding us through.

Manna is not dropping from the sky today, that stopped a long while ago, but He is still dropping that word today....don't miss it.

So why should we care about any of this? Because just like they needed manna, we need Jesus. You are going to need to understand this in order to make it to what God has for you.

Manna is just a model, but Jesus is the real deal.

What are you talking about Preacher?

- Once you decide that you can no longer do this on your own and you turn to trusting in Jesus, you will begin the journey from death to life, from bondage to freedom, from a bad season into a transition into something better than you've ever had it before.
- When you are in between your worse season and your best season ever, in transition, you can expect the following to happen in your life:
 - You will be tested, on purpose. Objective -- To get you to trust in God rather than your own supply.
 - Your supply will run out and you will need to turn to Him....again.
 - You will look at your wilderness situation and be tempted to complain.
 - You will look at your situation and be tempted to turn around and go back to trusting in yourself or someone else other than God.
 - You will be tempted to start talking crazy.
 - You will think that God is playing some kind of cruel joke on you and brought you this far to let you fail.
 - You will start to forget how He brought you out; and why He brought you out and lose focus of the promise and vision for your life.
- But when you turn to Him, you can expect the following to happen in response to your difficult situation:
 - God will show up in your situation and provide what you need in a way and manner you never expected.
 - He will invite to draw closer to Him after you've drifted away.
 - He will show up and let you know He still has you
 - He will turn your situation around
 - From trouble to triumph
 - From grief to glory
 - From bad times to party times
 - From worry to worship
 - From little to overflow
 - From sleepless nights to rest
 - From pressure to peace and
 - His glory is connected to your situation so He will, He must, He wants to bless you on purpose...part of the plan.
 - He will give you instructions, so you never have to be hungry again like that.
 - In response to His goodness, you will be tempted:
 - to hold onto something you have let go and what you are holding onto will be of no use to you in the future.
 - To still try and work some things out on your own.
 - Tempted to fear, that even though He worked it out today, He might not be there tomorrow.
- What should we do?
 - Everyday receive and believe in Jesus
 - Make Jesus the Center of Your Joy, he is the word of life



- His promises are in His word. Believe in the Word of God is the same as believing in Jesus because He is the living word.
- Don't stop believing. The Word is what you need to survive transition.
- Know and believe that He is your God.
- Don't freak out, if He did once, he will deliver again!

Taste and see that the Lord is good, just like the sweet taste of manna, He is sweet I know.