

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

October 25, 2024 – The Forerunner Message in the End Times – Erlinda Cruz

Do Not Waste Your Wilderness (Part 2)

What the Spirit is saying to the church: DON'T WASTE YOUR WILDERNESS.

Also a study in perseverance by Autumn Crew of FAI.

In the desert. Now let's look at the flip side of this same life: John led an incredibly disciplined lifestyle. From even before he was born, he was required not to drink any alcohol, refrain from cutting his hair, and not come near to or touch a dead body, even if it was his mother or father.

[7] He spent his early life dwelling in a rugged, mountainous tract of land between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea,[8] his clothing was rough, and he literally ate locusts and wild honey for sustenance.[9] John was in the wilderness all the way up until the beginning of his public ministry,[10] which lasted only a couple years before he was beheaded.

Sounds super fun, right? John led the polar opposite of a glamorous lifestyle.

So how is it that he came out of the desert carrying a legacy powerful enough to prepare the way for Jesus?

The thing about the desert is that it doesn't have all the bells and whistles. No lush green trees, running rivers, chirping birds. No shade for relief, water for refreshment, or flowers for color. Just dry, hot, vast, open wilderness. Everything is stripped down, and it's quiet.

When your surroundings are silent, it's easier to hear a still, small voice.

When all the extra fluff is stripped out of our lives, it's a chance to encounter Him on a more pure and intimate level than ever.

I believe that what John experienced in the dry wilderness, with no one and nothing but the voice of the Lord, was a kind of Living Water that one can only find in a desert season. When Gabriel prophesied of John before his birth, he told Zechariah that John would come "in the spirit and power of Elijah." [11] Long before John ever lived, the Lord met Elijah in his time of trouble, with a voice described as a "low whisper." [12] If John was to prepare a way for the Messiah in the spirit and power of Elijah, he too would have to be trained to hear this steady, quiet voice of the Lord.

This narrative is so appropriate to heed in this time. One thing we as believers need to know is to not waste our wilderness. Not to waste pain, trials and suffering.

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We are to learn to endure and grow in our capacity to be stretch in the interior...less showing of the exterior.

Our roots must grow deeper as the exterior are pruned as in the case of the grape vine. Every year after its bearing fruit, the farmer cut to the barest the grape vine to allow a deepening of its roots. The deeper the roots, the fresher the water it gets. This will result in better fruits for wine.

Prayer:

Father we ask for strength to be pruned, the understanding to yield for the purpose of depth and great fruition.