

“THOU HAS LACKED NOTHING”

Text: Deuteronomy 2:1-7

Subject: God’s Encouraging Word to Forward Marching People!

Introduction

Fact: It is no secret, that no one is exempt from the wilderness.

Fact: It is no secret that everyone needs to hear the last five words of Deuteronomy 1:21:
“Fear not, neither be discouraged.”

Question: What does it mean to be discouraged?

Answer: The two Hebrew words for the word “discourage” in Deuteronomy 1:21 & 1:28 are:
1. KAWTHATH (and) 2. MAWSAS

These Two Hebrew Words Mean:

- ◆ To Faint
- ◆ To Melt
- ◆ To Crush
- ◆ To Weaken
- ◆ To Be Discouraged
- ◆ To Fatigue
- ◆ To Break Down
- ◆ To Liquefy

Fact: When you liquefy something, you thin it out and weaken the substance by pulling it apart.

Illustration: Paint may be thick, but you thin it out by liquefying it.

Illustration: Milk may be thick, but you can liquefy it to 2% or 1% fat.

Illustration: Engine oil may be 10w 40 weight, but time and wear will break it down and weaken the oil.

Illustration: Drywall mud may be thick, but adding too much water will liquefy it so that it fails to cover the nails and tape.

It’s no secret

- ◆ That if the joy of the Lord is your strength, the devil wants to liquefy your heart!
- ◆ The devil’s desire is to discourage, separate and liquefy the substance of your joy.

Why is this subject so important?

- ◆ Because medical doctors reveal that there are primary root feelings which must be dealt with in everyone. (Hurt, guilt, sadness, fatigue, disappointment and fear).
- ◆ Failure to deal with these root feelings will result in secondary feelings that produce a high level of discomfort; frustration, resentment, anxiety, impatience, insecurity, pity and hopelessness.
- ◆ If not dealt with properly, these primary and secondary feelings will result in two major (and common) feelings in people (anger and depression).

Question: Why did God say in Deuteronomy 1:21, “Neither be discouraged”?

Answer: Because #1. Israel was experiencing these primary and secondary feelings and #2. Because God wants you to live mentally, emotionally and spiritually healthy.

Israel had seen the worst.

1. Israel went through a great and terrible wilderness. (Deuteronomy 1:19)
2. Israel was detoured and delayed for 40 years (when it was only 11 days journey from Mt. Horeb to Kadeshbarnea. (Deuteronomy 1:2)

The Setting of Our Text is:

- ◆ Israel has just rested from marching through the plains of Shittim.

- ◆ These plains were the richest on the eastern bank near the mouth of the Jordan River.
- ◆ Israel is about to cross Jordan and possess their inheritance.
- ◆ Israel is on the brink of crossing over into the “unknown”.
- ◆ Israel is asking “What in the world is over there beyond the Jordan River?”

Israel’s Emotions Were High (And Low)

1. On one hand they wanted to be excited about life.
2. On the other hand they were apprehensive because of past disappointments.

In Other Words

- ◆ They were thinking about the past (but wanted to look ahead to the future).
- ◆ They were thinking about the future (but were worrying because of the past wilderness).

And in the midst of it all;

- ◆ God gives us the secret to surviving the wilderness.
- ◆ God unfolds to us the truth that you can rest upon.
- ◆ God reveals to you four words of power that keep you strong (even in the wilderness).

Four Words of Power

I. God Knows (Deuteronomy 2:7)

“For the Lord thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand; He knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness.

Question: Why did God say this?

Answer: Because Israel was afraid of the unknown.

- ◆ The Israelites didn’t know what was on the other side of Jordan.
- ◆ The Israelites were nervous about steps unknown.
- ◆ The Israelites couldn’t see where tomorrow might lead.

So God says

“You don’t need to worry about what you can’t see (because I know everything you don’t know).

Even Job Confessed

“God knows the way that I take.” (Job 23:10)

II. God Goes (Deuteronomy 1:30)

“The Lord your God which goes before you, He shall fight for you.

Question: What is God saying here?

Answer: He is saying “Come on Israel, can’t you see that I’m going on before you over Jordan?”

- ◆ “Can’t you see that I’ll clear the path of the giants as you march forward?”
- ◆ “Can’t you see that I’ll cause all things to work together for good (things that could discourage you?)”

So much so that Deuteronomy 23:5 says;

“The Lord thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto you, because the Lord loves you.”

- ◆ Balaam was hired to curse Israel and hinder them.
- ◆ Balaam was the devil’s advocate to distract Israel.
- ◆ But God reversed the devil’s intention (and used what was evil to turn it into something good.)

Illustration

Joseph "You meant it for evil, but God turned it into good."

1. God knows
2. God goes

III. God Shows (Deuteronomy 32:10)

"The Lord found Israel in the waste howling wilderness and led him about."

Question: What is a "waste howling wilderness"?

Answer: The Hebrew word for "waste" means "without form".

- ◆ No atlas or Google Maps
- ◆ No idea how all the pieces of the puzzle of your life are fitting together.
- ◆ No direction or finish line in sight.

But guess what?

- ◆ The cloud by day and the fire by night never left Israel alone.
- ◆ And the same God that showed Israel which way to go is showing you as well.

Question: What is the temptation?

Answer: To run ahead of God. (Read Deuteronomy 1:40 – 46)

- ◆ It was God's will to fight the Ammonites. (But not yet)
- ◆ And instead of waiting for the green light, Israel ran the red light (and learned the hard way).
- ◆ That God's timing is better than ours.
- ◆ That rushing God is not a good idea.
- ◆ That patience is a virtue that brings great dividends.

IV. God Grows (Deuteronomy 8:1-5, 15 & 16)

Question: What was God doing internally to Israel in the wilderness?

Answer: (V. 2) Proving (V. 16) Proving

- ◆ God was growing Israel. (Why?)
- ◆ To see who loved God for what they get (or)
- ◆ To see who loved God for who He is!

Question: What happens if we cooperate with God?

Answer: Deuteronomy 8:16 "To do thee good at your latter end." **(In other words)**

- ◆ You can't see beyond the clouds in your life.
- ◆ You can't sense all that God is doing.
- ◆ You can't understand all the ways of God.

But God has your end in view!!!

**So much so, that Beloved,
"Thou hast lacked nothing."**

Question: What is God saying here?

Answer: That when you look back Israel, over the past 40 years, understand this; that everything you've ever needed, God has provided.

"You have lacked nothing!"

- ◆ Food – I sent it!
- ◆ Guidance – I sent it!

- ◆ Water – I sent it!
- ◆ Leadership – I sent it!
- ◆ A Miracle – I sent it!

In Other Words

- ◆ In facing your unknowns beyond Jordan in Canaan – remember this always:

You have lacked no-thing!

Conclusion

(What is God after in us today?)

Two Things

#1. A Spirit of Joy (Deuteronomy 28:47 & 48)

“Because you served not the Lord with joyfulness and with gladness of heart for the abundance of all things; therefore shall you serve your enemies.”

Question: What is God after?

Answer: Service (void of anger and bitterness) that is grateful and glad to be a part of God’s Kingdom.)

#2. A Spirit of Faith (Psalm 78:17-22)

“And they sinned yet more against God by provoking Him in the wilderness...yea, they spoke against God saying, can God furnish a table in the wilderness? Because they believe not in God and trusted not.”

Question: Why was God provoked to anger?

Answer: Because Israel didn’t believe that God would provide in the wilderness!

Altar Call

- ◆ How many of you are serving without the joy of the Lord?
- ◆ How many of you are consumed by worry over something outside of your control?
- ◆ How many of you are allowing the past to rob you of your respective for tomorrow and the days ahead?
- ◆ How many of you need the Lord to deposit this one truth into your heart...

“Thou has lacked nothing.”

(So that you can get up and start living again?)

AMEN!
Bill Kirk