

## **“HE WAS IN THE WILDERNESS TOO”**

**Pastor Mike Corwin**

TEXT: ROMANS 8:31-39

Last week I preached about the fact that we need to come out of the wilderness. The places that we face in this life that bring us grief, sorrow, and all kinds of other problems and emotions. I read to you the story of the Hebrew people complaining to Moses and his brother Aaron over the lack of provisions in the wilderness. I hope you remember the message.

I didn't specifically point it out to you last week but I want to this week. It never said that Moses went to God with the people's problems. It says that God spoke to Moses before he spoke to God (verse 16:4). This is an important part of the story of God and the wilderness. God's already there.

Before you can even call upon God for his help, he's already present and already knows what your problems and needs are. That's always been the case. No matter where we are...no matter what we've gotten ourselves in to...no matter what we need...God is already there. The Bible tells us that God both proceeds us and succeeds us. He's already there when we get there and he doesn't leave until after we do.

I see that too in verse 10 of last week's story. The Israelites were able to look up and see God's glory because he had been traveling with them and watching over them the whole time. He was already in the wilderness ahead of them. I don't know whether he made himself very visible in the cloud or the people just opened their eyes. But he was already there with them, watching over them, listening to their pleas for help and wanting

them to turn to him and depend on him. The Israelites weren't the only ones in the wilderness. God was there too.

This is an important piece of information you need to have as you are dealing with your wilderness journeys. No matter what you are going through. No matter how deep you are in the wilderness. God is already there.

From the beginning of the Covid -19 pandemic and the way it was going to impact the church, Pastor Becky and I have both told you not to fear. That God would be with us and travel with us through it. We continued to hold up the verse from Joshua 1:9:

*<sup>9</sup>This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”*

We have held this up to you as a promise of God. I'm now reminding you that this is a promise from God, even in this present time of trouble. We are not supposed to live in fear, or wander through the wilderness in worry, but trust that God is with us through it all.

As a matter of fact I want to remind you of another powerful promise from God. One that passes even this. Not only is God already there with you, not only is God present for you, not only is God watching over you, but YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM HIM!!

Listen to this passage from Romans:

**Romans 8:31-39 (NLT)**

**Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love**

<sup>31</sup> What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? <sup>32</sup> Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. <sup>34</sup> Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

<sup>35</sup> Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? <sup>36</sup> (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") <sup>37</sup> No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

<sup>38</sup> And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. <sup>39</sup> No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

You hear that? You may turn your back on God but he never turns his back on you. According to these words by the Apostle Paul, there is absolutely nothing that can separate you from God's love.

- Covid can't
- Cancer can't
- Poverty can't
- Hatred can't
- Prejudice can't
- Addiction can't

- Evil can't
- Disease can't
- Even politics can't

There is no power in heaven, on earth, or in hell that can pry you away from the God who made you and loves you so much he sacrificed his one and only Son for you.

God has gotten us through a lot worse than what's going on today, and he will do it again. Trust God and allow his love to permeate through your entire soul.

Never again think you're in it alone. God is there, was there, and will be there.

AMEN