

PART 12 - FOLLOWERS OF THE WILDERNESS - FOLLOWERS OF THE TEMPLE

Over the next 2-3 resources, we are going to look at and discuss the difference between being a follower of the wilderness and a follower of the temple.

As previously stated, I am speaking in spiritual thoughts and spiritual words, so I pray you will be able to hear what is being spoken through the Spirit. The risk of not hearing correctly will either see you disregarding what the Spirit is wanting to reveal in and to us, or misunderstand what is being said, and believe something entirely different to what is being said.

This is a very real reality today in the church, His body, and it always has been. To hear what the Spirit is saying through the Spirit, has and always will be the greatest challenge for God's people. Our oneness of Spirit depends on it, and just because we say we are His followers, doesn't mean we are all growing in fellowship with Him and one another, living as one.

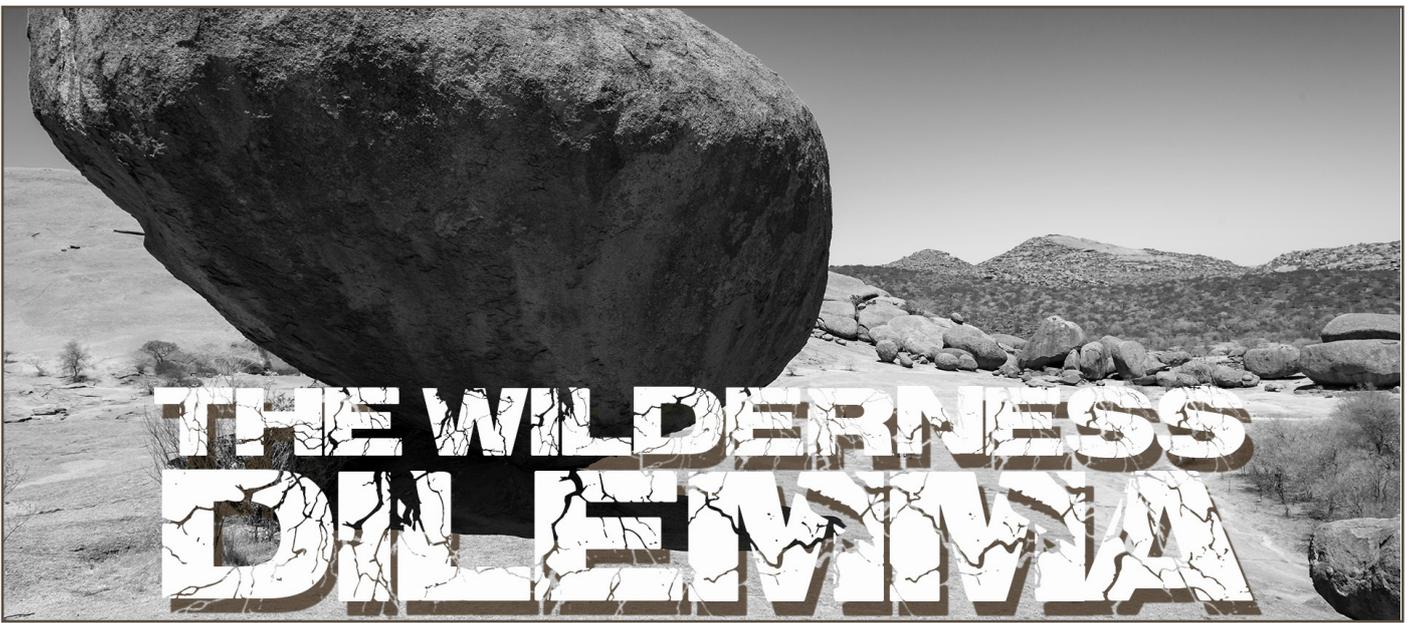
Just like the 12 leaders who went in to spy out the promised land were all of the same people group, but they were not all of the same "kind". Two of those leaders, Caleb and Joshua were of a different "kind". They were wholeheartedly abandoned to God, His Word, His purpose and plan, because they had lost their lives and were no longer living for themselves, while the others were of a different "kind".

The problem today is that those who are temple followers have no idea that's who they are. They genuinely think, and are wholeheartedly convinced, they are in Christ, when in fact their lives don't reflect this truth. These temple followers have forms of godliness but do not live a life of Godliness. Temple followers trade form for substance, and their form of godliness is based around what they do for God, as opposed to who they are in God.

Many of these temple followers have been raised WITH a very functional, transactional Christianity, from a spirit of legalism, but unfortunately they have not be raised IN Christ. God loves all of His people, but not all of His people love Him the way He commands and live for the Father's will.

These followers know how to answer all the questions correctly, and say all the right things, but they are not in the life of their answer. When it comes to living the right way or righteously walking in the manner which Jesus walked, they are unable.

Firstly, when I speak about being a follower of the wilderness and being a follower of the temple, I am not referring to a physical place or building, but a heart posture and a mind-set in a person. Our hearts and minds can either be of the Spirit, the wilderness, the unseen, the promised land, the eternal realm



OR the flesh, the temple, the seen, the world, the temporal realm.

The challenge is just because you may have the Spirit living in you, doesn't automatically mean you know or live from the life of the Spirit, where the Spirit is the one controlling and directing your life now. You can still very much just continue to live your life from the flesh, quenching and grieving the Spirit.

Although Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt physically, and Egypt is a physical typology of the world, Egypt was still fully established within them, hence their disobedience to God and Moses in the physical wilderness was incredible. This is what kept them all, bar two people, from entering the physical promised land.

Freedom is not on the external but on the inside. In our hearts and minds. Plenty of people live in freedom on the outside, but in their hearts and minds they are in bondage.

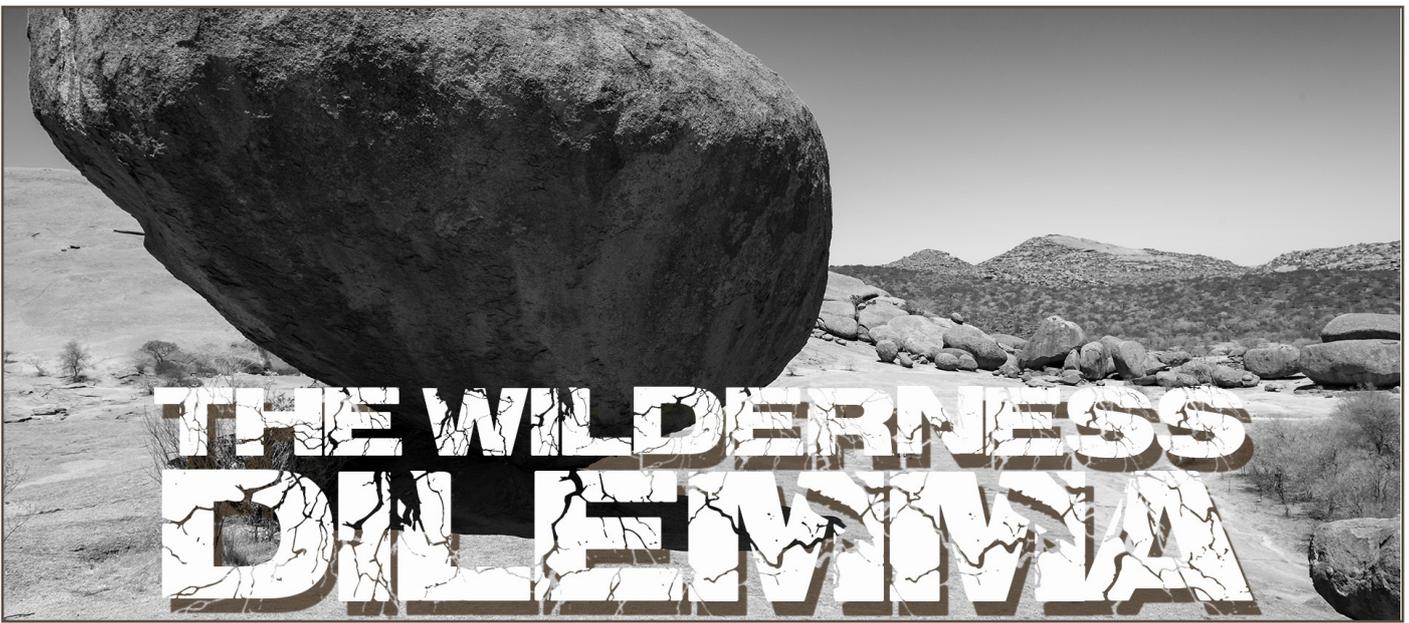
The question I want to pose to us all is, which one are we of? Which one do we inhabit and relate to? Which one are we eating from? Which one are we hearing and seeing from? Which one do we spend our time, energy, priorities and resources in and on? Which one are we living from and for? Although these are confronting questions we must ask them of ourselves, otherwise we run the risk of thinking we are in a reality we in fact aren't. I can't think of anything worse than to think you are in something you really aren't and live from this form of blindness or deception.

We have looked at Jesus, His disciples and John the Baptist all being a "type" of wilderness. A type of the unseen but seen realm, where an abundance of life exists, called the promised land, the eternal life in Christ. The natural or flesh has no reference for this spiritual dimension, and it is from this posture I want to discuss the difference between what it means to be a follower of the wilderness and a follower of the temple.

Buckle up because this promises to be a bumpy ride, but I promise us all, that if we will truly enter into our spiritual act of worship, which is the laying down of our lives, completely surrendering every part of us, the Spirit of God will come and engrave the Word of God on all of our hearts, so we all can live the Way of the Kingdom wholeheartedly.

QUESTIONS

1. What has been mentioned in this resource that might be challenging you right now and why do you think this the case?
2. What is the most distinguishing factor between a wilderness follower and a temple follower?
3. How many of us can relate to a very functional, transactional form of Christianity?



4. What is the spirit behind this transactional form of Christianity?
5. What is the role of Grace in our lives and why is it essential we live from it?
6. Why is it essential that our hearts get crucified, our minds are being renewed and our emotions are being defined by His Word, and we are not just changing our external situation and circumstance, thinking this will bring life?