

Theme for 2019

**‘The God of Another Year, is a God of Wonderful and Amazing Grace.
He is the God of Forgiveness and He is the God of Beginning Again.’**

365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES!

“O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.”

Psalm 51:15 (ESV); Lamentations 3:22-23 (NKJV); Psalm 9:1-2 (NKJV)



This Week’s Thought – March 10, 2019

“Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, as on the day of testing in the wilderness... Take care, brothers and sisters, that none of you may have an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’, so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” Hebrews 3:7-8, 12-13 (NRSV)

365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES—This week, starting this past Wednesday (Ash Wednesday), many Christians around the world started a new season in the life of the church. Lent is a season of preparation and anticipation for Easter/Resurrection Sunday. Before we join Jesus in the joy and victory of Easter/Resurrection morning, we are first invited to journey with Him into places of brokenness and need, both in the world around us and in our own hearts and lives.

During this season Christians often view this journey through the lens of the wilderness imagery of the Old and New Testaments. From the days of Israel wandering the wilderness to the temptation of Jesus, this is a central and reoccurring theme in the Biblical narrative. It is no surprise then, that the author of Hebrews reminds the reader of this powerful image, quoting from Psalm 95. In in these ancient words we see both the challenge and the opportunity of wilderness seasons.

On the one hand, wilderness seasons bring with them very real testing and challenges. As anyone who has navigated one can attest, life in the wilderness can be isolating and disorienting. We easily forget where we came from and where we are going.

March 10, 2019

We begin to question why we set out on this journey in the first place! In many ways, this is natural and to be expected. The wilderness is not a place to make a home but is meant to be passed through. Yet the journey itself will leave a mark on our lives and shape the kinds of people we become on the other side of the experience.

Following Jesus into the wilderness is a choice to let go of comfort and familiarity in order to see Him with renewed clarity and conviction. It is an invitation into deeper discipleship, trusting that He is leading us towards a glorious future where He will walk with us every step of the way. Yet the author of Hebrews also knows this is meant to be a communal journey! We need the gift of other Christians to join us in the wilderness, speaking truth over us when we are prone to forget our identity and our direction.

The wilderness can be a scary and painful place, especially as we peel back our layers of self-sufficiency, autonomy, and pride. Yet as we journey together as the people of God, we learn that it is possible to remain vulnerable, transparent, and receptive to God, even in the midst of the harshest terrain.

On today, may the blessing of peace rest upon you...the blessing of joy abide within you...the blessing of success and favor surround you...the blessing of love flow out through you. May all the Blessings of the Lord be yours in abundance as you ‘Encounter the Possibilities’ this day will bring!!

Application: Are you isolated and alone in your faith journey? Talk to God and thank Him for the gift of wilderness seasons but ask Him to send you brothers and sisters from the Christian community to journey with, so you may be strengthened to strengthen others as you follow His lead.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Dear God, in this moment and during the Lenten season, I center myself into the heart of Your love. With every beat of my heart I feel my connection and oneness with You. In the awareness of my heart I feel, in a meaningful and exquisite way, my closeness with Your love and all others in my life. I feel oneness with Your Powerful Spirit. I am at peace in the heart of Your love. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

“And then God answered: "Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.” Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King