

WILDERNESS LESSONS # 11

December 13, 2015

I. Camp #17 Rissah

Num 33:21 journeyed from Libnah and camped at Rissah.

Definition:

Rissah = Dew; watering, distillation;

Application:

A. In the Bible, water is often used as a picture of man's spiritual need.

1. Three times Israel experienced thirst in the wilderness.

(Ps 78:15-16; 105:41; 107:4-9, 33, 35; 114:8; Isa 48:21)

- 1) At the bitter water of Marah - a tree purifies the water (Ex 15:22-26)
- 2) At Rephidim - Moses provides water by striking the rock (Ex 17:1-6).
- 3) At Kadesh (Meribah) Moses disqualifies himself by striking the rock (instead of speaking to it) for water (Nu 20:8-13).

Dt 8:15 "He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint.

Ne 9:20 "You gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, Your manna You did not withhold from their mouth, And You gave them water for their thirst.

2. The purpose of trials is to make us hungry and thirsty for God

Ps 42:1-2 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?

Ps 63:1 O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Ps 143:6 I stretch out my hands to You; My soul longs for You, as a parched land.

3. This longing can only be satisfied in our relationship with the Lord

Jn 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

Jn 6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.

Jn 7:37-39 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.' " 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

4. All other sources bring dissatisfaction

Jer 2:13 "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water. (Jer 2:17-18; Isa 41:17-18; 58:11)

5. God invites and promises to satisfy our thirst

Isa 55:1 "Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost. (Rev 22:17).

Mt 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

B. Water also speaks of our need for restoration and renewal

Prayer for renewal

Ps 51:10-12 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. (Lam 5:21)

Promise of renewal

Isa 40:30-31 Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, 31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary. (Ps 23:3; 103:4; Jn 7:37-38)

Process - renewal is a day by day process of the new man.

2Co 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. (Col 3:9-10; Tit 3:5)

Transformation - through the renewal of our mind

Ro 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Eph 4:22-24 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

II. Camp #18 Kehelathah

Num 33:22 journeyed from Rissah and camped in **Kehelathah**.

Definition:

Kehelathah = (root; to call together); assembly

The root is used 39 times in OT as:

Assembled (Ex 32:1; 35:1; Lev 8:4; Nu 1:18; 16:3,19,42; 20:2; Jos 18:1; Jdg 20:1; 1Ki 8:1,2; 12:21; 1Chr 13:5; 15:3; 28:1; 2Chr 5:2; 11:1; 20:26; Est 9:2,15; 9:16,18; Ezk 38:7,13)

Assemble (Lev 8:3; Nu 8:9; 20:8; Dt 4:10; 31:12,28; Est 8:11)

Assembly (Nu 20:10; Job 11:10)

Gathered (Jos 22:12; Jdg 20:14; Jer 26:9)

Convening (Nu 10:7)

Stephen spoke of the **congregation** of Israel **in the wilderness** (Ac 7:38).

Ex 16:1 congregation came to the wilderness...(Ex 17:1; Nu 13:26; 20:22,29)

Application:

A. Peter's preaching to the Jews on the day of Pentecost (Ac 2:38-47).

v. 38 Repent and be baptized; v. 40 Be saved from this perverse generation. v. 41 about 3,000 receive; and were added to them;

v. 42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

v. 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

B. Don't forsake our own assembling together (Heb 10:24-25).

Heb 10:24-25 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Heb 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

What is, "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together"? (1 Cor. 7:29.) He knew that much strength arises from being together and assembling together. "For where two or three" (it is said) "are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20); and again, "That they may be One, as we" also are (John 17:11); and, "They had all one heart and [one] soul." (Acts 4:32.) And not this only, but also because love is increased by the gathering [of ourselves] together; and love being increased, of necessity the things of God must follow also. "And earnest prayer" (it is said) was "made by" the people. (Acts 12:5.) "As the manner of some is." Here he not only exhorted, but also blamed [them]. (John Chrysostom Archbishop of Constantinople; from Homilies of St. John Chrysostom, on the Epistle to the Hebrews; T. Keble & F. Gardiner, Trans.)

Since Christ is our high priest, and we are a kingdom of priests (1 Peter 2:9), we ought to assemble together for common worship, teaching, and service. The OT Jew could not enter the tabernacle, and the high priest could not enter the holy of holies whenever he pleased. But, through Christ's sacrifice, we have a living way into heaven. We can come to God at any time. Do we take advantage of this privilege? (from Wiersbe, W. W.; Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament)

C. One Another Study

Love is the fulfillment of the law

Rom 13:8-11 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. 9 For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. 11 Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.

30 positives:

1. Love one another (Jn 13:34-35; 15:12,17; 1Jn 3:11,23; 4:7,11-12; 2Jn 5; Rom 13:8; 1Thes 3:12; 4:9; 2Thes 1:3; 1Pt 1:22; 4:8).
2. We are members of one another (Rom 12:5; Eph 4:25).
3. Accept one another (Rom 15:7).
4. Admonish one another (Rom 15:14).
5. Greet one another (Rom 16:16; 1Cor 16:20; 2Cor 13:12; 1Pt 5:14).
6. Wait for one another, when you eat together (1Cor 11:33).
7. Care for one another (1 Cor 12:25).
8. Serve one another (Gal 5:13; 1Pt 4:10).
9. Show tolerance for one another (Eph 4:2).
10. Forgive one another (Eph 4:32; Col 3:12-13).
11. Speak and sing to one another with words filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18-19 Col 3:16).
12. Submit to one another (Eph 5:21).
13. Bear with one another (Col 3:12-13).
14. Admonish one another (Col 3:16).
15. Comfort one another (1Thes 4:18).
16. Live in peace with one another (1Thes 5:13).
17. Seek after that which is good for one another (1Thes 5:15).
18. Encourage one another (Heb 3:13; 10:25).
19. Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (Heb 10:24).

20. Confess your sins to one another (Jas 5:16).
21. Pray for one another (Jas 5:16).
22. Fellowship with one another (1Jn 1:7).
23. Give preference to one another in honor (Rom 12:10).
24. Pursue the things which make for peace with one another (Rom 14:19 Mk 9:50).
25. Pursue the things which build up one another (Rom 14:19; 1Thes 5:11).
26. Be hospitable to one another without complaint (1Pt 4:9).
27. Be humble to one another (1Pt 5:5).
28. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love (Rom 12:10).
29. Be of the same mind toward one another (Rom 12:16).
30. Be of the same mind with one another (Rom 15:5; Phil 2:3).

11 negatives:

1. Don't judge one another (Rom 14:13).
2. Don't sue one another (1Cor 6:7).
3. Don't bite, devour or consume one another (Gal 5:15).
4. Don't become boastful, challenging and envying one another (Gal 5:26).
5. Don't lie to one another (Col 3:9).
6. Don't hate one another (Tit 3:3; Mt 24:10).
7. Don't speak against one another (Jas 4:11).
8. Don't complain against one another (Jas 5:9).
9. Don't betray one another (Mt 24:10).
10. Don't seek one another's praise (Jn 5:44).
11. Don't sexually deprive your spouse (1Cor 7:5).

III. Camp #19 Mount Shepher

Num 33:23 journeyed from Kehelathah and camped at **Mount Shepher**.

Definition:

Mount Shepher = (root - to glisten; make fair); beauty; pleasantness. goodness

Application:

A. Tyre (prophetic of Satan) is created beautiful, becomes proud and falls (Ezk 27 - 28)

Ezk 27:3 "O Tyre, you have said, 'I am perfect in beauty .'

Ezk 28:2 ... "Because your heart is lifted up and you have said, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods in the heart of the seas'; ...

Ezk 28:12-16 You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty . 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. 14 You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you. 16 By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. and I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

B. Israel

1. **God made Israel beautiful**, she trusted in her beauty and played the harlot (Ezk 16:10-15).
Ezk 16:10 "I also clothed you with embroidered cloth and put sandals of porpoise skin on your feet; and I wrapped you with fine linen and covered you with silk. 11 "I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your hands and a necklace around your neck. 12 "I also put a ring in your nostril, earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. 13 "Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your dress was of fine linen, silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour, honey and oil; so you were exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty. 14

"Then your fame went forth among the nations on account of your beauty, for it was perfect because of My splendor which I bestowed on you," declares the Lord GOD. 15 "But you trusted in your beauty and played the harlot because of your fame, and you poured out your harlotries on every passer-by who might be willing.

2. Because of their idolatry, God destroys her beauty

Jer 11:16 The LORD called your name, "A green olive tree, beautiful in fruit and form"; With the noise of a great tumult He has kindled fire on it, And its branches are worthless. (Lam 2:15)

C. Church

1. The Lord makes us beautiful

Is 4:2 In that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth will be the pride and the adornment of the survivors of Israel. (Is 28:5; 33:17)

Is 61:3 To grant those who mourn in Zion, Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.

2. God makes Zion beautiful

Ps 48:1-2 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, In the city of our God, His holy mountain. 2 Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, Is Mount Zion in the far north, The city of the great King.

Ps 50:2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God has shone forth.

Is 52:1 Awake, awake, Clothe yourself in your strength, O Zion; Clothe yourself in your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; For the uncircumcised and the unclean Will no longer

Is 52:7 How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" (Rom 10:15)

3. God makes the bride (new Jerusalem) beautiful and glorious.

Isa 62:2-4 The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; and you will be called by a new name which the mouth of the LORD will designate. 3 You will also be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. 4 It will no longer be said to you, "Forsaken," nor to your land will it any longer be said, "Desolate"; but you will be called, "My delight is in her," and your land, "Married"; For the LORD delights in you, and to Him your land will be married. ((Eph 5:25-27; Ps 45:13; 87:3; Is 60:15-20)

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. (Rev 21 - 22).