

Proclaiming the Gospel

Message
of
Jesus Christ

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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Dry Spells Come Mountains Are Formed

But in the last days it shall come to pass, [that] the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem (Mic 4.1, 2).

What an inspiring picture of the presence of the Lord on the Mountain! It does not refer to just any hill or mountain; the Mountain of the Lord is "established in the top of the mountains, and . . . exalted above the hills . . ." (Mic 4.1).

How I would love to dwell in that mountain in His presence! But I must admit, for some reason, I do not remain there; there are dry spells. How should we cope with the dry spells? When we find ourselves dry and thirsty, how do we return to the Mountain of the Lord?

We have said, and others have said to us, "The church(es) is not the Church anymore." It is hard to find the precious presence of the Holy Spirit in the services in so many "churches;" people leaving the services are untouched, unchanged, dry – so dry. Saints become anemic and their spiritual lives are in jeopardy when the "church" is not preaching repentance, the Blood of the Lamb, and living a holy life. When there is no nourishment in the "churches," it is difficult for individuals to continue experiencing the presence of the Lord in their daily lives – difficult – but not impossible.

If there were no valleys, there would be no mountains. Dry spells come to each of us, whether through our own fault or by God's design for our good. God took the Israelites through the desert for their own good (Ex 13.17). If we are attentive to our spiritual condition and realize there is no sense of God's presence in our lives, if we hunger for more of Jesus, we will go quickly to our knees to seek Him. We will long to be on the mountain top with Jesus, basking in His glory, becoming one

Mountains are formed by our submission to the Lord in prayer, seeking His face and being in the Word, the Living Word, Jesus, and the written Word, the Holy Bible; it is aligning our hearts with the Lord in the valley, melding with the Lord so that the Holy Spirit can form that mountain for us to climb with Moses – to hear the Lord God Almighty!

O, can you cry out and say with the Psalmist, "My heart is fixed"? Is your heart fixed upon the Lord God in the valley – though the enemy has prepared a net for your steps, though your soul is bowed down . . .? O, saints, fix your heart upon the Lord Jesus Christ in the valley, knowing the Mountain of the Lord lies before you (Ps 57.5-7).

Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; [let] thy glory [be] above all the earth.

They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen [themselves]. Selah.

My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.

Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

with Him as He comes to dwell within us and we in Him. The dry spell, the valley experience, will force us to seek the mountain where He dwells.

Sin separates us from the Lord. David cried to the Lord (Ps 139.23, 24), “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if *[there be any]* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” He prayed to the Lord God in Psalm 51.2, “Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.”

So often, we become distracted from our prayer life and from reading God’s Word; we drift from the closeness to God we should have and have had in times past. Neglect of prayer and time in the Word of God is also sin; when we do not repent, we become weak, lukewarm Christians. We begin to suffer from a spiritual lack in our innermost beings, and our “bodies” become ill just as our natural bodies become ill when they are malnourished. The first step in restoring our relationship with Jesus Christ is repentance – after which, it is imperative that we read the Holy Bible to know the commands and teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ and then to walk in obedience in His ways. We must pray seeking the will of the Lord in our lives and listen attentively with our hearts to His call upon our lives.

There are times of dry, desert-like experiences that are not of our making. God took the Israelites through the desert to give them time to develop courage, strength, faith, and trust in God’s care for them – lest they become discouraged and return to Egypt (Ex 13.17). He gave them opportunities to learn to trust Him and to face battles to see God’s deliverance in “impossible” situations. He gives us such training also. Without these experiences, we, because of our sinful nature, would simply drift from the Lord Jesus Christ and return to the bondage of our “Egypt.”

Let us rejoice in the desert experience allowing the Lord God to use it to bring us to our knees with an insatiable hunger for His presence and His glory in our lives that others shall see Jesus in us as was seen in Moses when he returned from the mountain (Ex 34.29, 30) and in Stephen as he was stoned to death for the preaching of the Word of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 6.15).

Saints, mountains are formed on our knees.

It takes a work of the Holy Spirit in lives that are surrendered to Him to change the dry spells into mountains; the mountain is formed as we, on our knees, lift up and exalt the Name of Jesus through praise and adoration; we seek Jesus’ face, falling down before Him in worship, totally submitting ourselves to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His will – allowing Him to fill us with the written Word and with Himself. This is not easy. It requires time spent in prayer and reading the Word; it requires setting aside time for the Lord at night or early morning when we would rather sleep or during the day when we think we have mundane chores that need to be done. It means thanking and praising Jesus in all things – no matter what!

Moses, a mighty man of God, experienced dry spells. What could be drier than a desert? He led his father-in-law’s sheep to the back side of the desert – and came to the Mountain of God (Ex 3.1). Yes, we, God’s people, walk through times of dryness, times when we do not feel God’s presence; it seems that He has forgotten us. We become thirsty and faint, as in a desert. It captures our attention; and, if we are serious about our relationship with our Lord, it will drive us to our knees.

We can struggle in the desert, wandering around seeking the water of the Holy Spirit in a barren wasteland; or we can set our eyes on the Mountain of the Lord and our feet upon a straight path until we come into God’s presence.

It was in the desert at the Mountain of God that Moses received the call of God to deliver His people from the bondage of Egypt. He would lead God’s people across the same desert to the same Mountain of God. Moses would be experienced to lead the Israelites; he had crossed this desert, had been on this Mountain of God; he had stood on the holy ground and had talked with God at the burning bush.

Now that Moses had led the Israelites to the foot of the mountain, God was requiring more of Moses. He was not to stop at the bottom of the mountain, nor even in the foothills; he was to come to the top of the mountain and meet with God (Ex 24.12; 34.2).

Note that even though Moses had previously crossed the desert to the mountain, he again had a desert experience before he could again experience the mountain. We are strengthened by lessons taught in times of dryness that come before reaching the mountain.

Let us not be fearful but walk through the dry desert allowing it to make us and mold us as we fall on our knees before the Lord in total surrender. We gain strength as we brave the elements of dry territory with one goal in mind – to go to the top of the Mountain of God (God’s presence) “and be there” (Ex 24.12). It is in this mountain that He teaches us His ways, and we walk in His paths (Isa 2.2, 3; Mic 4.1, 2).

Picture Moses on this journey through the desert, the weakness of thirst, his legs as heavy as lead, stumbling. Then, he arrives at the bottom of the mountain. God wants him to climb those rocky cliffs? With thorns? With sheer precipices? See him as he stumbles; his knees are scraped; his body bruised. Will he make it? Or will he fall over the precipice to his death? Oh, but he will make it! He must. He must see God’s glory (Ex 33.18). Moses has an insatiable hunger, a longing to know God!

Let us go to the desert with Moses. Let us walk that straight and narrow road with determination and perseverance; ignoring the pain from stumbles and falls, let us press on, climbing the rugged terrain, longing for the mountain top, God’s glory.