

SERMON GUIDE:

April 23, 2023, Pastor Jason Smotherman

WAR OR WILDERNESS

Exodus 13:17-18

- **Leveling up is never that easy.** It always requires something internal to change so that something external will be changed.
- The first thing you need to notice about this passage of scripture is how God cared about what they were looking at, as an indicator of their current posture and the level of fight they had in them.
- When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, “Lest the people change their minds **when they see** war and return to Egypt.”

What you see can change your mind IF your heart is not anchored in His proper perspective for your life.

God was noticing that the effects of the last season left them not equipped to face the next season. So it was the wilderness. The shaping ground. Every person will be required in this life to face their wilderness.

Matthew 4:1

The Promise land, I believe, wasn't just a destination or position found on a map, **it was first about a position and perspective of the heart.** Before God could move them externally there was movement that needed to happen internally.

The people had no idea what was in front of them.
They knew what was behind them;

- years of slavery
- bondage
- hard labor
- no freedom
- building a legacy for other people
- raising their kids in a perpetual generational bondage

Their life was known, planned, and truth be told, they grew accustomed to bondage. **Bondage taught them how to think.**

You will never get to your purpose in life by someone else's revelation of God.



No voice, no matter how much you respect it, will ever reach into a place in your life that will shake you and change you like God's voice. YOU need to learn to hear HIS voice for yourself.

John 1-:27-28

When I rely on others to tell me what and who I am and what I am supposed to do, I will always struggle believing what and who God says I am and what He wants me to do.

Francis Chan, The modern American Christian doesn't want to be saved from their sin just the consequences from them.

James 1:7-8

The War exposes 3 areas of growth:

1. **Weariness,** Who is our source?
2. **Wounds,** Who do you go to when you're wounded?
3. **Wondering,** Are we ever going to win?

In war, you must know our weapons: The Holy Spirit - the person and work of the Holy Spirit

- The person provides comfort and companionship and the work provides gifting.
- Spiritual **gifting** and supernatural **generosity** are the two tangible ways the Holy Spirit works through us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- In our passage of Jeremiah in last week's sermon, what was God trying to communicate to Jeremiah?
- How do you view yourself? Do you view yourself as inadequate, insufficient, or worthless? Or do you see yourself as a victor, qualified, and a child of God?
- Have you been in a war or wilderness season? What is the most difficult part and how can we as a group help you in this season?