

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for October 4, 2020

Sermon Notes

The Wilderness Paradox

Hosea 2: 1-23 (pew Bible pgs. 751-752)

During four days in mid-August of 1969, approximately 400,000 people gathered at Max Yasgur's dairy farm near White Lake, New York for the Woodstock Music and Art Fair for An Aquarian Exposition: 3 Days of Peace & Music. "People, mostly young, tired of the pompous cliches and worn out admonitions of their parents, decided that with the dawning of the Age of Aquarius, they would no longer need the hegemony's sanctions to survive in life." The 1960s counterculture wanted to usher in a new age defined by peace and love, and threw off the materialistic, militaristic, self-interested, and sexually repressed culture of their parents.

Joni Mitchell portrayed the sentiment in her song, Woodstock, commemorating the event. In the final verse of the song, she laments, "We are stardust. We are golden. We are caught in the devil's bargain. And we got to get ourselves back to the garden." This garden reference pointed back to the paradise of the Garden of Eden. Mitchell's lyrics rightly recognize there is something wrong with this world. However, her solution assumes we can fix our world ourselves. The direction she sends us is further into Satan's lie. And the destination she sees as an angel forever blocks paradise with a flaming sword.

Though it appears to be a contradiction, the road back to paradise is not beautiful and lush. It's not an easy road of pleasure and worldly peace - the path through a wilderness where suffering is the norm and striving marks the day. Not laid out by man, but Jesus, the God-man, leads the way through this wilderness paradox.

Message Statement:

Plot Lines of Scripture

The Wilderness Paradox Plot Line

Hosea Chapters 1 - 3: Hosea's marriage to Gomer reflects God's relationship to you and me

Hosea 2:

Applications

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

Where have you seen God's Wilderness Paradox at work in Scripture?

Peter uses the term "fiery trial" in 1 Pe 4:12-19, which describes a metal refiner's work. How does this term elaborate on the intensity of the trials God appoints in our lives? How does this idea point to the value God places on the maturing of our faith?

How can 1 Peter 4:19 help us walk through life's many different kinds of suffering with hope? Will this hope help you in the future when you face the various types of suffering in our lives? Like struggling relationships, uncomfortable emotions, seeing a family member in danger?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.

Westwood Staff

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