

WILDERNESS WANDERERS v POSSESSING PEOPLE

General Introduction – Just as Israel went from being “wilderness wanderers” to “possessing people”, God desires that we first change our mentality (mind set), then our very landscape. What an exciting time! Please pay very close attention to each word in this prophetic series as they all fit together to make one word. Then determine to embrace, obey and possess! Finally, hold onto your hats – it’s going to be a fun ride. ☺

Deuteronomy 2:3(NASB) / Joshua 3:3b(NIV) – “YOU HAVE CIRCLED THIS MOUNTAIN LONG ENOUGH. NOW TURN NORTH. / “...YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN THIS WAY BEFORE.”

*MESSAGE #9: MATURITY

Intro – At the ripe age of 22, Linda and I graduated from Bible College one night and were married the following day. From there we took off across the country singing and preaching in various churches – Holding what was called, revivals (remember those? ☺). After eight months of traveling, we settled into our first pastorate (still 22 years old). Unfortunately, it didn’t take long for my youthful enthusiasm and idealistic vision of ministry to wear off. I was discouraged, feeling like I was nothing more than a glorified baby sitter, bringing a big bottle of milk for the saints every Sunday; and running to their every whine and cry during the week. I remember thinking: “If this is all there is to ministry, I want nothing to do with it.” Then a book, given as a gift, came to my rescue. CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP by Juan Carlos Ortiz revolutionized the way I looked at ministry. Over the years, I have been so thankful for the radical, but Biblical message with-in those pages. Today’s message is a reflection of that new vision & fresh ideals that were woven into the fabric of my life and ministry.

*Joshua 5:11-12a – “The very next day they began to eat unleavened bread and roasted grain **harvested** from the land. No manna appeared that day, and it was never seen again.”*

*MATURE SAINTS HAVE LEARNED TO...

1. SOW / GIVE

* *Gal 6:7b* – “A man **reaps** what he sows.”

* *2 Cor 9:6-7* – “Whoever sows **sparingly** will also **reap sparingly**, and whoever sows **generously** will also **reap generously** ... God loves a cheerful **giver**.”

Further Discussion:

1. What stopped after Israel possessed the land?
2. What does this signify, and how is this a blessing?

2. OVERCOME

* *Rev 2 & 3* – “To him who **overcomes**, I will...”

* *Rom 8:37* – “No, in in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through Him who loved us.”

Further Discussion:

3. Go to Revelation 2&3 and share what God gives to the overcomers.
4. Pastor Rich shared a progression of victory & overcoming from Psalms 18. What was it?

5. Romans 8:37 says we can be “more than conquerors”. What’s the thought behind this?

3. THINK OF OTHERS

* *Phil 2:4* – “...you should look not only to your own interest, but also to the interests of others.”

* *Rom 15:1* – “We who are strong ought to bear with ... the weak and not to please ourselves.”

Further Discussion:

6. A sure sign our children are beginning to mature is when what happens?

7. Give some examples of how this happens spiritually.

8. What is the idea of Romans 14, and how does it portray this point?

4. TEACH & LEAD

* *Hebrews 5:12, 6:1* – “In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of god word all over again ... Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity.....”

* *2 Tim 2:1-2* – “You then, **my son**, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say ... entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

Further Discussion:

9. What “phrase” in OUR VISION reflects this point?

10. Why is it important that this continues to happen? How does the natural illustrate this?

5. FINISH

* *Eccl 7:8a* – “Finishing is better than starting.”

* *Acts 20:24/2 Tim 4:7* – “I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me...” / “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

- **STARTING IS EASY, STICKING IS HARD**

Further Discussion:

11. What analogy did Pastor give regarding this point?

12. How did Paul exemplify this point?

Col 2:6-7a – “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him...”