



October 2016

Surviving The Wilderness: Anchor #2



As we continue with our study of Surviving the Wilderness, this month, I want to share the second Anchor of the seven. I might encourage you to read last month's letter and keep these together as your Survival Guide when encountering a wilderness experience.

If we want to know something about a particular topic, we will often find someone who has done extensive research in that particular area, and then study their research. We should study those who have made successful discoveries and documented their journey clearly. And if we are wise, we will learn from their failures to avoid some of pitfalls they encountered. This is true mentorship.

The Bible gives us a few examples of individuals who entered into the wilderness. We know Jesus was there forty days and forty nights being tempted by the devil. We also know that John the Baptist lived in the wilderness eating wild locust and honey while proclaiming the arrival of Jesus. One day the Lord reminded me of another who lived in the desert for over forty years....and he lived to tell about it.

Moses had a great purpose upon his life. As a young baby, Pharaoh decided to kill all the male babies being born. Moses' mother wrapped him up and placed him in a basket and floated him down the river where Pharaoh's daughter discovered him, and took him to raise as her very own.

As we fast-forward, we realize that Moses was purposed to deliver the Children of Israel from Egypt into the land which God had promised for them. There was only one thing that proved problematic, and that was the years that were sandwiched between their deliverance from Egypt and their entrance into this land of promise.

It was in the wilderness that a metamorphosis took place within both Moses and Israel. This was a place of transformation of thoughts, actions, responses, and ultimately choices as to whom they would serve.

Israel had seen the plagues which resulted in them beginning their journey to the Promised Land. They watched as the Red Sea was parted and the great Egyptian army drowned. They saw the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, and they witnessed the various manifestations of God's presence on the top of the Holy Mountain where Moses was given the Ten Commandments.

Exodus 17 gives us the account where Moses had led Israel to Rephidim where they were suffering from thirst as they had no water. Israel remembered that in Egypt they never ran out of water. As a result, they caused a tremendous upheaval against the leadership of Moses. It was there that God spoke to Moses and gave him specific directions to smite the rock which resulted in water being released and flowing freely to provide the refreshment for all of Israel.

Thirty-Nine years later, as Israel continued to wander in the wilderness, they find themselves at Kadesh in the same situation as before....without any water! As the grumbling continues against Moses and Aaron, great pressure rests upon Moses. I can only imagine that after listening to a million people grumble and

complain in a wilderness for 39 years, his patience was very thin. And as the arguing and discord continued, Moses grew increasingly impatient with the situation and he consulted God for direction.

Numbers 20 gives us the account similar to Exodus 17; the Israelites were thirsty and there was a rock. However, in this passage, God tells Moses to speak to the rock, and do not strike it. Moses, now well seasoned and familiar with the power of God and witnessing great demonstrations of God's power and provision, takes it upon himself to recall the account of Exodus 17. He knew two things. First, God had spoken to him with a promise of water. And second, there was the rock again. He remembers all of this while holding his staff towards heaven asking God for direction. Moses took it upon himself to remember what happened before and so he hits the rock with his staff. But this scripture says something very interesting happened. Verse 11 says that Moses struck the rock two times before the water sprang forth.

When I read that, I could see it play out in a cinematic format on the big screen. Here is Moses with all the people complaining, God speaking to him, and he sees the rock. Contrary to God's instruction, he takes the rod and hits the rock. Nothing happens. So, he supposes he didn't hit it in the right place, so he strikes the rock a second time before the water pours out.

There is a lot of theological debate why this one action prevented Moses from entering into the Promised Land. We know the various types and shadows with regard to the rock and the water and even the rod. But when I read this, the Lord told me this was an anchor for me to hold on to that would enable me to exit my wilderness season and enter into my promised destiny.

DON'T STRIKE THE ROCK, SPEAK TO IT

Sometimes, we can feel as though the wilderness has dulled our senses.

We are not quite as sensitive to the voice of God, or perhaps the fatigue and weariness has prevented us from hearing as clearly as when we first received the vision.

Sitting on my back porch, I heard the Lord speak very clearly to not attempt to duplicate or replicate what had worked in the past season of success. Do not endeavor to recreate the scene expecting the same thing to happen. God is very creative and so He will never repeat what He has already done.

As I continued to ponder on what the Lord was showing me, I wrestled trying to discover if God wanted to do something particular, or should I already know what to do and then implement what I already knew? Let me explain.

As a young child, my parents had to give me detailed instructions of their expectations for my chores and other responsibilities. However, as I became a teenager, the expectation was that I should know what to do and how to do it and therefore should not have to be told what to do. That was my responsibility as a developing adult. If we are not careful, we can carry that same paradigm into our walk with God.

PAST EXPERIENCES ARE MEANT TO BUILD YOUR FAITH... NOT BE DUPLICATED

God wanted to remind Moses that He had brought water from a rock before, so God has the ability to produce a sufficient amount of water for the need. Furthermore, God can bring forth water from wherever He chooses. It is my interpretation of this scripture that Moses thought that He had experienced this before, and so he would draw off of that experience and do the same thing expecting the same result. Sadly, that was NOT the instruction of the Lord. God's instruction was to SPEAK to the rock.

When you and I face a wilderness, we must NOT duplicate what worked in the past season, nor wait for things to line up as they did prior to the miracle from the past. This is a new season, and with a new season there are always new challenges to face and conquer. This is why we need the instruction of the Lord.

Isaiah 43:19 AMP

[19] Behold, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs forth; do you not perceive and know it and will you not give heed to it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Today, allow God to do a new thing in you. He is ready to cause a river to invade your desert bringing you refreshing and renewal. Let past experiences build your faith; however, do not assume that you are to do now what you did then. Stop and ask clear direction from the Lord, and then obey His instruction. And if you do not get an instruction or direction from the Lord, walk in what you know is true and what you believe you should do. But first give pause to allow the Holy Spirit opportunity to speak to your heart.

Remember, one season does not last year round. It is a fixed law.

Your wilderness will not last forever! Regardless of what is happening today, you can take comfort that your season is changing.

BY FAITH, LOOK WHERE YOU ARE GOING NOT WHERE YOU ARE TODAY!

Right now, I encourage you to Speak to your situation. Don't strike it. There is power of life and death in your tongue, and I say choose life, and speak life as well! Walk in the dominion authority that God has promised you. Let faith rise up within you to speak to the mountain to be removed and cast into the sea. Stop striking at it, complaining about it, and start speaking to it with the word of God. When we speak the words that HE speaks, we can expect the results that HE gets.

In His Service!

Keith & Michele Duncan



Michele Duncan
Mrs. NC United States 2016

Announcing Michele Duncan Mrs. North Carolina United States 2016

Mrs. Duncan, a real estate broker with Coldwell Banker Howard Perry and Walston located in Raleigh, will continue to work with her platform **Choose2Change**. Michele's passion is to help women realize that their value comes from the choices they make, not the situations they find themselves in.

Choose2Change's primary focus is to encourage and equip women with the tools and resources necessary to help them pursue their goals and fulfill their destiny. This is achieved by targeting choices that produce change and bring about transformation in their lives.

During her reign, Michele will not only promote her platform but also partner with several non-profit organizations, like the American Heart Association where she is an Advocate for, **You're the Cure**, and other businesses across the state of NC.

If you would like to have Michele attend and/ speak at your upcoming event, please contact her at: mrsncus@gmail.com or State director Tausha Etter at: mrsncsc@gmail.com or for information on the 2017 Mrs. NC US Pageant.