

## Series: Advent Joy

Sunday, December 14.

### THREE TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE WILDERNESS

#### 1. FROM DISCIPLINE TO DIVINE F.....

(Isaiah 35:1-10)

- The exiles face a real wilderness—weakness, fear, burning sand, thirst, and predators. They were far from home, separated from everything familiar. Yet God didn't just promise eventual deliverance; He transformed the wilderness itself. The desert became glad, springs bubbled up, and God brought beauty, strength, and fruitfulness right there in Babylon.
- God can meet you in any difficult seasons you face and bring transformation even before the circumstances change.
- Is there a "wilderness" in your life where you're waiting for God to remove you, when He might be inviting you to see how He's transforming you within it?

NOTES: .....

.....  
.....

#### 2. FROM DESOLATION TO DIVINE P.....

(Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 2:9-11; John 14:6; see also Acts 3:1-8)

- After the exile, Israel endured over 500 years of ongoing turmoil. During the last 400 years of this period, there was prophetic silence—no "thus says the Lord." Then Christ came and the blind saw, deaf heard, lame leaped, and the mute praised God. Jesus didn't just heal bodies; He became "the Way" Isaiah prophesied—the Highway of Holiness that leads Home to the Father.
- How does knowing that Jesus is "The Way" change how you approach your relationship with God?

NOTES: .....

.....  
.....

*Turn page over for #3*

## Series: Advent Joy

Sunday, December 14.

### THREE TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE WILDERNESS

#### 1. FROM DISCIPLINE TO DIVINE F.....

(Isaiah 35:1-10)

- The exiles face a real wilderness—weakness, fear, burning sand, thirst, and predators. They were far from home, separated from everything familiar. Yet God didn't just promise eventual deliverance; He transformed the wilderness itself. The desert became glad, springs bubbled up, and God brought beauty, strength, and fruitfulness right there in Babylon.
- God can meet you in any difficult seasons you face and bring transformation even before the circumstances change.
- Is there a "wilderness" in your life where you're waiting for God to remove you, when He might be inviting you to see how He's transforming you within it?

NOTES: .....

.....  
.....

#### 2. FROM DESOLATION TO DIVINE P.....

(Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 2:9-11; John 14:6; see also Acts 3:1-8)

- After the exile, Israel endured over 500 years of ongoing turmoil. During the last 400 years of this period, there was prophetic silence—no "thus says the Lord." Then Christ came and the blind saw, deaf heard, lame leaped, and the mute praised God. Jesus didn't just heal bodies; He became "the Way" Isaiah prophesied—the Highway of Holiness that leads Home to the Father.
- How does knowing that Jesus is "The Way" change how you approach your relationship with God?

NOTES: .....

.....  
.....

*Turn page over for #3*

### 3. FROM DESERT SEASONS TO DIVINE B .....

(Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 16:11)

- We all face wilderness seasons—health crises, job loss, broken relationships, depression, fear. God doesn't minimize our pain. Instead, He meets us in the middle of our desolation and begins His beautiful work of transformation. Psalm 16:11 tells us that where God's presence is, there is joy. The desert can become glad even before we leave it.
- Are there any places in your life right now, where you can invite God's transforming presence rather than just asking Him to remove the difficulty?

NOTES: .....

.....  
.....

**Application For This Week:** This week, reflect on Isaiah 35's promise that "gladness and joy will overtake them." Watch for moments when unexpected joy surprises you—whether in the midst of difficulty or in everyday moments. If you're walking through a hard season, ask God to meet you there. If you're in a season of blessing, thank Him for His faithfulness and pray for someone you know who is currently experiencing a “wilderness place.”

**Prayer:** “Lord Jesus, You are Emmanuel—God with us. You entered our world at Christmas and You remain with us still. Thank You that wherever we are—in wilderness or in blessing—You are present with us. Give us eyes to see Your work of transformation in our lives and in our world. Help us to walk faithfully on Your highway of holiness, and fill us with the joy that comes from knowing You. May we experience the truth that gladness and joy can overtake us, and lead us safely home. In Your name, Amen.”

#### Verses To Meditate On This Week:

*[Say] to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come” – Isaiah 35:4*

*[Those] the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. - Isaiah 35:10*

### 3. FROM DESERT SEASONS TO DIVINE B.....

(Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 16:11)

- We all face wilderness seasons—health crises, job loss, broken relationships, depression, fear. God doesn't minimize our pain. Instead, He meets us in the middle of our desolation and begins His beautiful work of transformation. Psalm 16:11 tells us that where God's presence is, there is joy. The desert can become glad even before we leave it.
- Are there any places in your life right now, where you can invite God's transforming presence rather than just asking Him to remove the difficulty?

NOTES: .....

.....  
.....

**Application For This Week:** This week, reflect on Isaiah 35's promise that "gladness and joy will overtake them." Watch for moments when unexpected joy surprises you—whether in the midst of difficulty or in everyday moments. If you're walking through a hard season, ask God to meet you there. If you're in a season of blessing, thank Him for His faithfulness and pray for someone you know who is currently experiencing a “wilderness place.”

**Prayer:** “Lord Jesus, You are Emmanuel—God with us. You entered our world at Christmas and You remain with us still. Thank You that wherever we are—in wilderness or in blessing—You are present with us. Give us eyes to see Your work of transformation in our lives and in our world. Help us to walk faithfully on Your highway of holiness, and fill us with the joy that comes from knowing You. May we experience the truth that gladness and joy can overtake us, and lead us safely home. In Your name, Amen.”

#### Verses To Meditate On This Week:

*[Say] to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come” – Isaiah 35:4*

*[Those] the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. - Isaiah 35:10*