

Key Verse: Jeremiah 2:6 “They did not say, ‘Where is the Lord Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, who led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought and of deep darkness, through a land that no one crossed and where no man dwelt?’

1. Satan has locked the world up.

- a. John 10:10** “The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy; I have come that you may have life and it more abundantly.
- b. Satan’s destructive work results in lives placed in chains of bondage.**
- c. The Good News: The keys to unlock these chains are already present in the earth.**
- d. Life Lesson: For every locked-up person, place, thing we face in this earth, God has already cut a key to unlock it and free it.**

2. Your Life is a Key

- a. You are cut uniquely.**
- b. You are made for a door.**
- c. Many people are living with someone else’s cut key, why?**
 - i. Guilt: They struggle under the real weight of the devil’s condemnation for something they cannot forgive themselves for.**
 - ii. Timidity: Some people struggle with a lack of confidence, or belief that God really did form and fashion them to accomplish wonderful things in this life.**
 - iii. Pain: Like a broken tooth you try and eat on, some people have a sore spot in their life that has not been healed.**
 - iv. Fear: Some allow the enemy to tell them why they cannot instead of telling the enemy why God can!**
 - v. Excessive worry: Some are overly concerned with all the things that could go wrong. The worry is robbing their peace.**
 - vi. Pride: The key I was made for is below my abilities or even above me. (Hint, if you think it is above it still can be pride because you have considered only your abilities instead of God’s)**
 - vii. Misunderstanding caused by hurts leading to confusion in your assignment.**
- d. Your key is your power, purpose, favor and involves your opportunity.**

3. **What are your Keys: What are the hints in your life that will direct you to the correct door. Remember your key is not just something you do but something you teach and invest into others.**
 - a. **Administrative: To carry the tasks behind the scenes that ensure the success of an organization. These are unsung hero's who ensure Ts are crossed, and I's are dotted.**
 - b. **Relational: The ability to stick to people, and build connections for the advancement of the gospel.**
 - c. **Leadership: Inspire and direct people with grace to fulfill a bigger vision that can only be accomplished when multiple people work together in teamwork.**
 - d. **Mechanical: You can build with your hands, craft things with excellence and ensure things work properly.**
 - e. **Financial: The ability to build wealth where none exists, to steward resources for maximum benefit.**
 - f. **Prophetical: Forthtelling mixed with wisdom that comes from God for guiding others.**
 - g. **Innovator: Getting it done in a new way, an ability to adapt to new situations quickly and effectively.**
 - h. **Evangelical: Spreading the message of the gospel to those who have never heard it in ways they can hear and receive it.**
4. **Every Key is cut but must find its proper lock.**
 - a. **How do we find our locked purpose?**
 - b. **There are 2 paths in this life: The servant and the selfish .**
 - c. **Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.**
 - d. **1st Corinthians 10:24 No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.**
 - e. **If we choose the road less traveled, to lay our lives down for the good of others, we will find our door.**
5. **The Key only finds the right door when we surrender our lives to the Lord.**
 - a. **Why don't people ever find the door they were made to open?**
 - b. **It is said that the single greatest place to find missed potential is in a graveyard.**
 - c. **Every human holds uncut keys but the wilderness that we hold the key in is often exceedingly difficult.**

d. God wants to take you from Wilderness to Purpose, from being on the outside to standing on the inside with Jesus in you showing the world who God is.

6. What is the wilderness?

a. Isaiah 40:3-5 ³A voice of one calling: “Prepare the way for the LORD in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low; the uneven ground will become smooth, and the rugged land a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all humanity together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

b. Jesus himself is our best example of what the wilderness is.

c. A place of barrenness where we learn to trust in God alone, David penned Psalm 23 speaking of the Lord leading him to green pastures. To the Middle Eastern shepherd green pasture is much different than we often think. The Middle Eastern wilderness is a desert with grass sprigs sporadically hewn throughout the countryside, where only the shepherd knows how to find the right hills & valleys.

d. The wilderness is a crucible of testing where God tries our hearts for purity to see if we will remain faithful to Him. Remember Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness.

e. A place where hope is deferred, and perseverance is developed. Perseverance is required to fulfill your full purpose in this life.

f. A place where our identity in Christ is realized and our edge is finalized. The unique “key” that you are is polished through the wilderness season, just like a key smith will polish the lose ends on a key that was cut, God smooths out the rough edges of your life.

7. What about those keys in your hand? Why are they significant?

a. Remember that Jesus was Baptized in water and the Holy Spirit came upon Him before He was led into the wilderness.

b. God will give you a glimpse of your future to help sustain you through the time of testing ahead.

c. The Holy Spirit is given to the Christian Pilgrim to encourage and sustain us on our journey.

d. The fact you are holding keys in your hand should encourage you when the fire is turned up in your life. You were not made for the wilderness, but you must pass through it. Learn, grow, develop but do

not stay in a wilderness like the 1st generation of the children of Israel did.

e. **Biblical Examples of Key holders in the wilderness**

i. Abraham

ii. Joseph

iii. Israel

iv. Elijah

v. **David (Our focus Example for today) Consider the delay in David's life from the day He was anointed to the time of His coronation as King of Israel.**

f. **What did all these key holders need to overcome their wilderness?**

i. **Faith: Hebrews 11:1-2** 1Now faith is the assurance of what we hope for and the certainty of what we do not see. 2This is why the ancients were commended.

ii. **Patience: Hebrews 6:11-12** 11We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, to make your hope sure. 12Then you will not be sluggish, but will imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

iii. **Those who came before us blazed a trail through the wilderness for us to follow.**

iv. **Consider that your life of faith and perseverance is also a testimony and legacy to those who will follow your example.**

v. **Life Lesson: Even if your children are not following your example of faithfulness and perseverance, know that your life will speak to them after you are gone.**

g. **Conclusion: Hold your keys high and know that God cut you different for a purpose. It is time to overcome in the wilderness finally and fulfill the purpose God created us for.**