

## Lamentations 3:25-28

<sup>25</sup> **The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him.**

<sup>26</sup> ***It is good that he waits silently for the salvation of the LORD.*** <sup>27</sup> ***It is good for a man that he should bear the yoke in his youth.*** <sup>28</sup> **Let him sit alone and be silent since He has laid *it* on him.**

One of the most difficult aspects of serving the Lord is that He doesn't always answer us the way that we would want; or in other words, when we would want. If you consider the fact that Moses spent forty years on the back side of the desert in Midian, no where are we told in the Scriptures that the Lord spoke to Moses during this time. Consider Joseph, no where are we told that he sinned, yet he endured thirteen years of slavery, and then imprisonment. Amazingly, Joseph and Daniel are the only two men that I have never heard of any sin that they committed, yet dear friend, both of these men endured many trials and tribulations. If you are facing a situation, or perhaps countless situations that are painful, humiliating, or simply ones that continue to bring the opposite fruit that you believe for, then I want to encourage you to hold on. Sometimes we try and share all that is taking place in our lives with a friend, but they seem clueless or indifferent. Don't become offended at them, because God designed it where no one else will understand but Him. This may sound like a Catch-22, because the whole reason that you want to talk, is because it's as if the heavens are sealed with an iron lining. Brethren, the wilderness is by design, created where nothing can satisfy your soul, but God Himself. The purpose of the wilderness is to kill your flesh, and strengthen your spirit.

What God is looking for every man and woman who is a faithful follower of Jesus Christ, is to learn to die to ourselves, and to take our cross up and follow Him. What many are teaching is that faith can swiftly take you through these times, but that is simply a pipe dream. We are most certainly to walk this time out in faith, but faith alone is not what this is all about. It's about each of us laying our lives at the foot of the cross. Where we say to our Heavenly Father what His own Son said in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Father not my will, but Yours be done." The wilderness is where our Lord with surgical precision, removes "us" from the equation. We can claim scriptures, we can fast; but in the end we will go through all that the Lord has for us, until He says were through. If there is one thing that clearly is on God's side, and not our own, it's time. So we must learn to embrace all that He has, as bitter as it may be, for as long as He determines. Many Christians have been fighting for as long as they can remember, what the Lord is doing in there lives. They have become angry and offended when the Lord tried to refine them; so they walked away or back-slid. Now, here you are ten, twenty, thirty, perhaps even forty years later; and the Lord is still trying to work His righteousness in you. I am convinced that it would have been much easier as this scripture says, if we would have surrendered to the Lord during our youth. But friend, don't loose heart; our God is just as faithful to take you through it today, as He was when He first called you to it. Whatever you do, surrender everything in your life to Jesus, today. Lay down whatever He is asking, and take up whatever He is giving. Don't take for granted that you can choose to do this another day; because none of us know if we even have another day. I exhort each of you to give your very best to the Lord, and to embrace all that He has for you!