

Pastor's Message

APRIL 2018

Hello all of you wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ. I pray that you are doing well and singing God's praises every day regardless of your circumstances.

I recently had the opportunity to see the movie "I Can Only Imagine". I would recommend it as one to put on your list of movies to see. The first time I ever heard the song was in 2006 when I was listening to a Christian radio station and Ivan Parker was singing. It touched me very deeply at that time and now that I "know the rest of the story," as Paul Harvey used to say, its meaning touches me even deeper. Bart Miller, the song writer and lead singer of MercyMe, stumbled around in the music world for quite a while before he realized that it was his wildernesses that brought him closer to an understanding of what his relationship with Jesus should and could be. It wasn't until he was ready to face "his story" that this song poured from him.

I have a book that is called "God Gave the Song" by Bill and Gloria Gaither. The book gives the stories behind many of the songs that this talented couple has written. In the forward, Suzanne Gaither Jennings, Bill and Gloria's daughter, writes about her experience, as a young writer of poems and song lyrics. Like Bart Miller, she couldn't understand why her creations were always getting turned down for publishing. The reasons given to her for the rejections were that she was writing above her years, or above her experiences. In the forward she writes this "It was not until a few years later when I had "been through" some things in my life that I began to hear "the song." In other words her trials, her journeys through the wilderness is what made her realize that it wasn't just her song, but also the song of Jesus that she had to share.

Have you heard your song (not literally, but figuratively speaking)? For those of you who attended worship during the season of Lent you heard me talk about how God works with and on us during the wilderness times that we all go through. During our wilderness times we go through a time of learning, of being challenged, of being dependent, of doubting and being comforted. Through all of these wilderness experiences, our faith grows when we listen to the Holy Spirit and allow the Spirit to guide us through. As we journey through each trial, we like Suzanne and Bart, end up with a song. We have learned life lessons that mature our faith.

Please don't think that you have to be physically older to have a strong faith because you don't. I have encountered some children who have suffered through various wildernesses whose faith is strong and they have a song to share.

I would like for you to remember that the "songs" aren't really our songs. They actually belong to Jesus. Jesus has written a song with each one of us who have chosen to follow Him. For Bart and Suzanne, they found their songs and with those songs they have reached thousands of hearts, even helping them to find and accept Christ as their Savior. Most of us won't write, sing or record our song, but Jesus does expect us to share it with those he brings to walk along beside us. Who knows what might happen, our song may help someone to find their way with Christ.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Lynn

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