

Week 2.

- How would you describe home?
- Read Jeremiah 31:7-9
- In what context is Jeremiah the prophet speaking?

'The wilderness is a place no one wants to go to, but eventually in this life everyone must. Wilderness is that shadowy place where we are apt to lose our way, where there is day to day struggle..... even there, especially there, there can be grace.'

[NRSV Spiritual Formation Bible p. 1128]

- Do you agree with quote above?
- What might constitute 'wilderness experiences' in our lives today?
- In what ways have you experienced God's grace in a 'wilderness' situation?
- What has this got to do with the subject of healing?
- Who are the people that Jeremiah names? Why do you think he mentions these particular groups?

In these verses Jeremiah is encouraging the exiles and strays to return home. He was speaking both about a physical homeland and a spiritual home.

- How may 'returning home' to God bring about healing in our own lives?
- In verse 9, Jeremiah mentions 'weeping & consolations' - what do you think he is referring to?
- Do these verses remind you of any other familiar passages in the Bible?
- Close in prayer for one another.

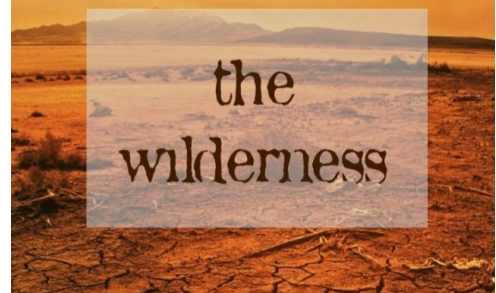


Healing

'Healing is...more than simply the act that brings physical health..... Healing frees the person to express what they are made and called to be, which is members of a community that lives in gratitude & praise....in which flesh gives voice to spirit....& creates further networks of healing & [integration].'

[Wounds That Heal, Theology, Imagination & Health : (Chapter 1. A Theology of Health For Today : Rowan Williams) : Editor J Baxter : SPCK : 2007 : p. 7]

God will bring us home from



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