

Life is \_\_\_\_\_

BASKETBALL  
IS LIFE




**“My momma always said, Life was like a box of chocolates.  
You never know what you're gonna get”**

**-FORREST GUMP**



Life is a  
Lightning

A 3D rendered image of the character Lightning McQueen from the Disney Pixar movie 'Cars'. He is a red sports car with a smiling face, blue eyes, and a wide grin. He has the number '95' on his side and 'YEAR' on his tire. The car is positioned in the center of the image, partially obscured by the cursive text.

Lightning

SHAKESPEARE QUOTE:

*“All the world's  
a stage,  
And all the men  
and women  
merely players.”*

SPOKEN BY JAQUES,  
AS YOU LIKE IT, ACT 2, SCENE 7



**The world is a stage,  
but the play  
is badly cast.**

*Oscar Wilde*

Life is \_\_\_\_\_



Summer Sermon Series



Grow in our belief and worship of God

See Jesus in Wisdom + Songs

Grow in handling of God's word in O.T.



## Psalm 81:title-3

TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO THE GITTITH. OF ASAPH.

<sup>1</sup> Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob! <sup>2</sup> Raise a song; sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp. <sup>3</sup> Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our feast day.

## Psalm 81:4–7

<sup>4</sup> For it is a statute for Israel, a rule of the God of Jacob.

<sup>5</sup> He made it a decree in Joseph when he went out over the land of Egypt. I hear a language I had not known:

<sup>6</sup> “I relieved your shoulder of the burden; your hands were freed from the basket. <sup>7</sup> In distress you called, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah.” Selah

## Psalm 81:8–12

<sup>8</sup> Hear, O my people, while I admonish you! O Israel, if you would but listen to me! <sup>9</sup> There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not bow down to a foreign god. <sup>10</sup> I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. <sup>11</sup> “But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. <sup>12</sup> So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.

## Psalm 81:13-16

<sup>13</sup> Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways! <sup>14</sup> I would soon subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes. <sup>15</sup> Those who hate the LORD would cringe toward him, and their fate would last forever. <sup>16</sup> But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”

# Why are we celebrating?

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## Exodus 17:1-6

<sup>1</sup> All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

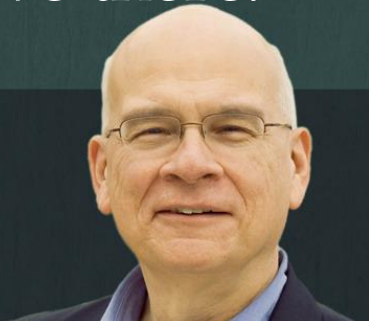
## Exodus 17:2-6

<sup>4</sup> So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” <sup>5</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup> Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.”

Life is \_\_\_\_\_

We're supposed to use the wandering in the wilderness narrative as a paradigm through which we understand our lives and our existence and the things that happen to us. In other words, the Bible says, "Right now, life in this world is a wilderness." Why should we know that? Why would that be?...When the Bible talks about the wilderness it means the desert, and the desert has this salient characteristic: it cannot support human life. You can't grow enough food to live there. You can't catch enough food to live there.

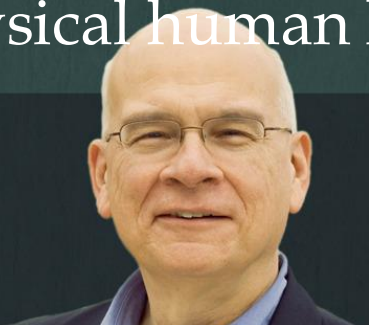
TIMOTHY KELLER





It's saying just as the physical desert could not support physical human life, so the world in the condition you see it today can never support or fulfill your deepest human longings. Go to the people who have had the very best marriages, the very best careers, the very best everything, and even then this world cannot give you what you need without God. The people of Israel would have perished in the desert except God miraculously intervened...The only reason they didn't all die was because of the miraculous intervention of God...the desert, the wilderness, is a place that cannot support physical human life

TIMOTHY KELLER



Can you see how life is a wilderness?



# Life is a wilderness

## Psalm 81:8-12

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A wooden signpost with four directional signs. The signs are labeled 'OPTION 1', 'OPTION 2', 'OPTION 3', and 'OPTION 4'. The background is a sunset sky with a bird in flight.

**OPTION 1**

**OPTION 2**

**OPTION 3**

**OPTION 4**

Can you see how life is a wilderness?

How have you mistakenly sought satisfaction  
in this desert life for your deepest needs?

This life can never support the deepest needs of your life, the deepest desires of your heart. Never. The world will never satisfy you. It will never be able to give you what you need. You will never, ever, ever get the deepest needs of your heart satisfied by anything in this world unless you have God. This world can't do it. Life is a desert. There are a lot of good things in it, but they can't satisfy your heart without God any more than the desert could sustain the people without divine intervention.

TIMOTHY KELLER



# The miraculous intervention of God

## Psalm 81:13-16

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## 1 Corinthians 10:1-5

<sup>1</sup> For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.



**The world is a stage,  
but the play  
is badly cast.**

*Oscar Wilde*

The world is a stage,

but ~~the play~~ **JESUS**

is ~~badly~~ cast.

**PERFECTLY**

~~Oscar Wilde~~

**COR**



## Colossians 2:16–17

<sup>16</sup> Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. <sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

Can you see how life is a wilderness?

How have you mistakenly sought satisfaction  
in this desert life for your deepest needs?

Are you hearing God that you might be saved  
and satisfied through his life-giving rock?