

**End-Time Prep Series**  
**Lesson 4: Blessings of Country Living**  
Sermon Bible Notes by Pastor O. Cary Rodgers, Jr.

**Psalms 72:9**

9 They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust.

When you leave the cities, as God has commanded His people especially those in the last days, you exchange the tall buildings with many tall trees; you exchange choking on polluted air with fresh air; you exchange the noises and chaos of the city life with peace and quiet; you exchange being crowded with space and privacy; and you exchange the curses of city living with the blessings of country living!

If you have not made this move. Who is going to make that move before it is too late?

**In the case of country living, Jesus who came in the flesh to save mankind from sin was raised in the Galilean hills.**

“ An expensive dwelling, elaborate furnishings, display, luxury, and ease, do not furnish the conditions essential to a happy, useful life. Jesus came to this earth to accomplish the greatest work ever accomplished among men. He came as God's ambassador, to show us how to live so as to secure life's best results. What were the conditions chosen by the infinite Father for His Son? A secluded home in the Galilean hills; a household sustained by honest, self-respecting labor; a life of simplicity; daily conflict with difficulty and hardship; self-sacrifice, economy, and patient, gladsome service; the hour of study at His mother's side, with the open scroll of Scripture; the quiet of dawn or twilight in the green valley; the holy ministries of nature; the study of creation and providence; and the soul's communion with God,--these were the conditions and opportunities of the early life of Jesus.” - **Ellen White, The Ministry of Healing, pp. 365-266.**

**On occasion Jesus went to the mountains or garden to pray to the Father to have undisturbed communion without any distractions.**

**Matthew 14:23**

23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

**Matthew 26:36**

36 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, **Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.**

There were times that Jesus took the multitudes and His disciples away from the city to the countryside to train them where they were close to His creation without the distractions of the city. He wanted to teach them in a space that was away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

**Matthew 5:1-2**

- 1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:
- 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying.

The forerunner of Jesus, John the baptist, loved the countryside and many came out to the wilderness to hear him preach.

### **Mark 1:3-5**

- 3 The voice of one crying in the **wilderness**, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
- 4 John did baptize in the **wilderness**, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.
- 5 And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

### **Who were some of God's patriarchs and prophets who were raised or taught of God in the countryside?**

Here are some examples: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Elisha, and Amos

### **Genesis 13:18**

- 18 Then Abram removed *his* tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which *is* in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.

### **Where did Isaac go to mediate and speak with the Lord?**

### **Genesis 24:63**

- 63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels *were* coming.

Jacob raised his children including Joseph on the countryside with several herds of sheep and cattle.

### **Genesis 37:1-2**

- 1 And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.
- 2 These *are* the generations of Jacob. Joseph, *being* seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; ....

### **Elisha the prophet was a farmer plowing the field with twelve yoke of oxen!**

### **1 Kings 19:19**

- 19 So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who *was* plowing *with* twelve yoke *of oxen* before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.

**Elisha obviously had a large farm in which he had to use twelve yoke of oxen.**

## **Amos the prophet was a herdsman.**

### **Amos 1:1**

1 The words of Amos, who was among the herdmen of Tekoa...

## **David grew up on the countryside as a shepherd for a flock of sheep.**

### **1 Samuel 17:15**

15 But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

“So with the great majority of the best and noblest men of all ages. Read the history of Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph, of Moses, David, and Elisha. Study the lives of men of later times who have most worthily filled positions of trust and responsibility, the men whose influence has been most effective for the world's uplifting. How many of these were reared in country homes. They knew little of luxury. They did not spend their youth in amusement. Many were forced to struggle with poverty and hardship. They early learned to work, and their active life in the open air gave vigor and elasticity to all their faculties. Forced to depend upon their own resources, they learned to combat difficulties and to surmount obstacles, and they gained courage and perseverance. They learned the lessons of self-reliance and self-control. Sheltered in a great degree from evil associations, they were satisfied with natural pleasures and wholesome companionships. They were simple in their tastes and temperate in their habits. They were governed by principle, and they grew up pure and strong and true. When called to their lifework, they brought to it physical and mental power, buoyancy of spirit, ability to plan and execute, and steadfastness in resisting evil, that made them a positive power for good in the world.” Ellen White, Ministry of Healing, p. 366

## **What are some more benefits and blessings of country living in prepping you, your family, and others for the final crisis?**

### **1 - Live in peace and quiet without the distractions, entertainment, attractions, chaos and the bumper to bumper traffic of city life.**

“Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one. We should now begin to heed the instruction given us over and over again: Get out of the cities into rural districts, where the houses are not crowded closely together, and where you will be free from the interference of enemies.” --Letter 5, 1904.

### **2 – The country is a heavenly training ground and the best place on earth to raise your children.**

“Let parents understand that the training of their children is an important work in the saving of souls. In country places abundant useful exercise will be found in doing those things that need to be done, and which will give physical health by developing nerve and muscle. Out of the cities is my message for the education of our children.” {Country Living p. 13.3}

“Those who will take their families into the country place them where they have fewer temptations. The children who are with parents that love and fear God are in every way much better situated to learn of the Great Teacher, who is the source and fountain of wisdom. They have a much more favorable opportunity to gain a fitness for the kingdom of heaven.” {The Adventist Homes p. 143.1}

### **3 – Gardens with fruits and veggies can be established and sustain the entire family.**

“If the land is cultivated, it will, with the blessing of God, supply our necessities. We are not to be discouraged about temporal things because of apparent failures, nor should we be disheartened by delay. We should work the soil cheerfully, hopefully, gratefully, believing that the earth holds in her bosom rich stores for the faithful worker to garner, stores richer than gold or silver.” {Testimonies, Vol. 6, p. 178}

“But the earth has blessings hidden in her depths for those who have courage and will and perseverance to gather her treasures. Fathers and mothers who possess a piece of land and a comfortable home are kings and queens. {Country Living p. 18.2}

### **4 – Able to establish or expand medical missionary, gospel evangelism, and industries.**

Examples: Country Outpost, Medical Missionary Training Center, Sanitariums or Natural Health Centers. Establish outpost in country. Evangelize the cities, but do not live in them.

### **5 – Training classroom and many lessons while living among God’s beautiful nature and creation.**

“It would be well for you to lay by your perplexing cares and find a retreat in the country, where there is not so strong an influence to corrupt the morals of the young. True, you would not be entirely free from annoyances and perplexing cares in the country; but you would there avoid many evils and close the door against a flood of temptations which threaten to overpower the minds of your children. They need employment and variety. The sameness of their home makes them uneasy and restless, and they have fallen into the habit of mingling with the vicious lads of the town, thus obtaining a street education. . . .

To live in the country would be very beneficial to them; an active, out-of-door life would develop health of both mind and body. They should have a garden to cultivate, where they might find both amusement and useful employment. The training of plants and flowers tends to the improvement of taste and judgment, while an acquaintance with God’s useful and beautiful creations has a refining and ennobling influence upon the mind, referring it to the Maker and Master of all.” {The Adventist Home p 141}

### **6 – Character development for the entire family.**

“No one can succeed in agriculture or gardening without attention to the laws involved. The special needs of every variety of plant must be studied. Different varieties require different soil and cultivation, and compliance with the laws governing each is the condition of success. The attention required in transplanting, that not even a root fiber shall be crowded or misplaced, the care of the young plants, the pruning and watering, the shielding from frost at night and

sun by day, keeping out weeds, disease, and insect pests, the training and arranging, not only teach important lessons concerning the development of character, but the work itself is a means of development. In cultivating carefulness, patience, attention to detail, obedience to law, it imparts a most essential training. The constant contact with the mystery of life and the loveliness of nature, as well as the tenderness called forth in ministering to these beautiful objects of God's creation, tends to quicken the mind and refine and elevate the character.” {The Adventist Home, p. 142.3}

### 7 – Gives you “elbow room and space.”

“He (God) wants us to live where we can have elbow room. His people are not to crowd into the cities. He wants them to take their families out of the cities, that they may better prepare for eternal life.” {Selected Messages, Vol. 2 p. 356.3}

In many of the large cities even the mansions are very close together only giving enough room to park their cars and maybe a very small yard. We had to go to Charlotte the other day and saw some. We happened to be passing through a wealthy area of the city in which thousands of wealthy homes were crowded together! Many of these homes may have one or two people living in them with several bedrooms and large living areas.

Which would you rather have, a large mansion crowd together with other mansions in the city or a modest home on multiple acres of land in the country?

“When power is allied with wickedness, it is allied to satanic agencies, and it will work to destroy those who are the Lord's property. The Protestant world have set up an idol sabbath in the place where God's Sabbath should be, and they are treading in the footsteps of the Papacy. For this reason I see the necessity of the people of God moving out of the cities into retired country [places], where they may cultivate the land and raise their own produce. Thus they may bring their children up with simple, healthful habits. I see the necessity of making haste to get all things ready for the crisis.” --Letter 90, 1897.

It will be literally impossible to get ready for the crisis that will intensify as we march closer and closer to the end of time. Remember, you cannot prepare for a crisis in the midst of the crisis. Preparation time is NOW.