

Wednesday Devotional 01/14/26

Scripture: John 4: 1-26

The Green Ribbon By Gigi Graham Tchividjian

It was Saturday, Israel's day of worship. After church (my husband) Stephan, the children and I decided to drive out of the city and into the hills around Jerusalem. They are rugged and barren – beautiful in an almost mystical sort of way – and we never tired of exploring them.

After stopping at a small café for pita and falafel, we found ourselves on the dirt road that winds through the wilderness from Jerusalem down to the plains of Jericho. We pulled the car over to look at the hills of Moab silhouetted against the eastern sky, and to watch the afternoon shadows playing eerie games of hide – and – seek with the deep ravines and steep precipices.

As I stood gazing at these ancient hills and soaking up their mysterious beauty, my eyes fell on a ribbon of lush greenery. It was so out of character, so cool and inviting in the midst of the heat and dust of the desert. All of a sudden I realized that here, in the middle of the wilderness, there must be an underground stream, providing nourishment and refreshment to the trees whose roots were firmly embedded along its banks.

Immediately Psalm 1 came to mind: "He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Wherever he does prospers" (Psalm 1:3).

How encouraging that even in times of dryness, even when I go through a desert experience, I can flourish and bear fruit if I am deeply rooted in the source of living water.