

Don't Waste Your Wilderness: It's Necessary!



Scriptures

- **Deuteronomy 8:1-3, 5,7, 9-11, 14-16**

“All the commandments that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to give to your forefathers. You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart...” He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.

⁷Thus you are to know in your heart that the Lord your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth

⁹...you will eat food without scarcity. ¹⁰When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you. ¹¹Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God, ¹⁴then your heart will become proud.

¹⁵He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground ¹⁶that He might test you, to do good for you in the end.

- **James 1:1-4**

James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

- **Hebrews 12:11 (NIV)**

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Other Scriptures

- Numbers 13
- 2 Corinthians 12:7-9
- Deuteronomy 8:3
- Psalm 23:4

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Main Points

- In order to enter into the fullness that Father has for you, you must go through the wilderness.
- Before Israel could take possession of the Promised Land, they had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years.
- There were lessons God needed to teach Israel that they could only learn in the wilderness.
- Principles in the Wilderness:
 - Humility
 - When we go through difficulty, we become dependent on God.
 - Anav (Hebrew) = Humble (English) to go through trials.
- Don't waste your wilderness. Thank God for where you are at.
- What you receive in your wilderness will bless you for the rest of your life.
- Rejoice in your wilderness because God is doing something powerful in your life!
- Principles of the Wilderness:
 - Special Impartation
- Principles of the Wilderness:
 - Discipline
- Some things you receive in the wilderness, you cannot receive anywhere else.
- In order to receive what Father has for us, we must go through the wilderness faithfully.
- It is important that you bind your heart and your thoughts to the Word of God.
- Don't confess your lack, confess God's Word in agreement with it.
- God is with you in your wilderness: Not just in your emotionally connected times, but also in the wilderness when things are tough.
- God is preparing to bless you.
- Going through wilderness experiences in our life is part of the salvation process.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some things that God has taught you in your wilderness times that you could not learn in your times of easy traveling in life?
2. Have you struggled with sensing God's nearness in the hard times? Rabbi's reminder that God is with you in those times whether you realize it or not is gold. What are some Scriptures that you can bind yourself to that can reign in your emotions, which are apt to lie and be manipulated by the enemy?
3. A life without wilderness experiences is not possible. God plans for our spiritual development during these times. How will you trust God in the season you are in?