

Why God Leads Us Into the Wilderness

Lessons From the Feast of Tabernacles

Core Message: The Feast of Tabernacles reminds believers that, at the end of the day, God alone is enough. Israel's wilderness journey teaches us that seasons of testing can expose our dependence on ourselves and teach us to cling more fully to the Lord. Difficult circumstances are not always signs that God has abandoned us; He may use them to humble, refine, and prepare us for what He has ahead. Rather than judging our lives only by what we are experiencing in the moment, we can trust that God is working with an eternal purpose. As we rely on Him through trials, He develops the faith and character needed to walk in His promises.

Main Bible Verses (NASB):

- **Core Memory Verse: (Deuteronomy 8:2)** "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, whether you would keep His commandments or not."
- **(Mark 1:12)** "Immediately the Spirit impelled Him to go out into the wilderness."
- **(Deuteronomy 8:3)** "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."
- **(Matthew 5:17)** "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill."
- **(Matthew 5:19)** "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."
- **(2 Corinthians 12:9)** "And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me."

Reflection Questions:

1. In what areas of your life are you most tempted to rely on yourself rather than cling to God?

2. How does Deuteronomy 8:2–3 change the way you view seasons of testing, uncertainty, or lack?

3. What might God be revealing or developing in your heart through a current difficulty?

4. How can you keep an eternal perspective when your present circumstances feel painful or discouraging?

Application Challenge of the Week:

Each morning this week, identify one area where you feel uncertain or out of control. Read Deuteronomy 8:2–3, surrender that situation to God in prayer, and verbally declare your trust that He is enough for you. (Or come up with your own as the Lord leads):

Prayer Prompts:

- Lord, teach me to cling to You instead of relying on myself.
- Help me recognize what You are developing in me through seasons of testing.
- Give me faith to trust Your larger purpose even when I cannot see beyond my present circumstances.

“The Lord bless you, and keep you; the Lord cause His face to shine on you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His face to you, and give you peace.” Numbers 6:22-27
(NASB 95’)