

The Wilderness Test

3/22/26- Pastor Zach

Numbers 13:27, 30-33, 14:1-4, 26-35, Deut. 8:2-3

Heb. 3:7-9, 2 Cor.6:10, Matt. 4:1-2, Heb 12:1-3,

Connect: How have you navigated a wilderness experience in your life? Was it a long or short wilderness and how did you come out of that?

Engage: Reread these texts.

What stands out to you in the text?

1. God leads us through the wilderness.

Zach shared that the most important lessons happen in the wilderness. Have you seen that in yourself and others? He also said that the Wilderness and testing is a big part of entering the promised land. Do you agree with that? Why or why not for you?

The Wilderness is to test what's in your heart. How does that look for you? We want life to be easy and smooth. God wants to transform us to hear His voice and transform us to be more like Him. How do you hear the Lord's voice?

2. We cannot live in the wilderness, and we cannot live without the wilderness.

What do think that means?

Why did the Israel wander for 40 days?

- a. They forgot God's faithfulness.
- b. They were focused on the obstacles over God.
- c. Fear shaped their Identity.
- d. They wanted to go back. Which one these statements do you struggle with the most?

God did this: to humble them – strip away their self- reliance, to test, - to reveal what is on inside, to teach dependence- daily reliance on God. Do you struggle with any of these and how does that show up in your life?

3. We do not want the wilderness but need the wilderness because without it;
 - a. We trust the gifts more than the Giver.
 - b. We rely on the control instead of God.
 - c. We never grow beyond surface level faith.

2 Cor 6:10 - reread. Zach shared maybe Clearview vision should be: Always grieving and always rejoicing

4. We have the One that overcame the test of the wilderness and brings us through the wilderness- Jesus.
 - a. Where Israel forgot- Jesus remembered
 - b. Where Israel grumbled- Jesus trusted
 - c. Where Israel failed – Jesus obeyed

We have Jesus in us – so we can remember, trust and obey.

Tim Keller:

With any kind of suffering if I respond to it by looking to God in faith, suffering drives me like a nail deeper in to God's love which is what cancer has done for me. Can you say that about your suffering?

Apply: Where do you need to identify your bread?

Where do you need to practice daily dependence through worship?

Where do you need to reframe your test, not as the victim but as the Beloved?

What is the invitation for you this week? Where is the Lord asking you to step into the wilderness and trust Him? Is there a wilderness place in your life or heart that the Lord is inviting you to look at? May You seek the Lord this week for what He has for you regarding the wilderness.