



Lesson 2

Hearts in the Wilderness

Deuteronomy 8; Matthew 4; Numbers 11

Tested through temptation to see if we will obey God from the heart

Summary

The wilderness is a hard place and a testing place; but it is a transforming place. Through the situations of life, God's providences are designed to give us opportunities to obey Him from the heart or to expose a sinful heart.

Heart E x p o s i n g Work of the Wilderness

Deuteronomy 8

God's Providences in L e a d i n g Them (v.2a)

God's Purpose to H u m b l e Them (v.2b)

God's Program to E x p o s e Them (v.2c)

The testing involves measuring their o b e d i e n c e.

The testing involves exposing their h e a r t s.

God's Provisions to T e s t Them (v.3-4)

Brought them through humbling c i r c u m s t a n c e s.

Allowed them to suffer in the lack of b a s i c n e e d s.

P r o v i d e d for them in supernatural ways.

Taught them the importance of the W o r d o f G o d for daily living.



God's Principles to G u i d e Them (v.5-7ff)

Accept God's paternal c h i l d - t r a i n i n g. (v.5)

W a l k in God's ways with holy fear. (v.6)

Expect God's b l e s s i n g in His own time and way.(V.7-10)

God's Precept to W a r n Them (v.11-16)

Lest we f o r g e t God in the midst of plenty. (v.11-16)

Lest we d e c e i v e ourselves in the midst of pride(v.17-20)

**Heart C o n f i r m i n g Work of the Wilderness
Matthew 4**

A p p r o v e d by God (3:17)

In His I d e n t i t y

In His P u r i t y

L e d by the Spirit (4:1)

Follows the P l a n of God

Serves the P u r p o s e s of God

W e a k e n e d by the Fasting (v.2)

T e m p t e d by the Devil (v.3-10)

In the Pressing N e e d s of the Body (v.3-5)

To exercise His creative power to s e r v e H i m s e l f.

To be i m p a t i e n t for the will of God

To heed the forceful c o m m a n d s of the tempter

To succumb to the d e m a n d s of the body.

In the Presumptive Misuse of the S c r i p t u r e s (v.6-7)



By attempting to e n d Jesus' life early

In the Perverted Worship of the Lord (v.8-10)

By offering p l e a s u r e now instead of the pain now.

By making p r o m i s e s he cannot and will not keep.

By eliciting p r a i s e he does not deserve or is entitled to.

Complaining from a **D i s t o r t e d** Heart Numbers 11

U n c e r t a i n t y and Danger

Numbers 11:1-3

Situation – what is their life like?

Response – what do they do and feel?

H e a r t I s s u e s – what is in their hearts?

Consequences – what is the result?

Provisions – how does God provide?

B o r e d o m and Sameness

Numbers 11:4-35

Situation – what is p r o v o k i n g their heart?

Response – what do they do and feel?



Heart Issues – what are they s a y i n g to themselves?

Consequences – what happened as a result?

Provisions – how did God d e a l with them?

Stress and Demands

Numbers 11:10-30

Situation – what is the m e a n s of temptation?

Response – how does he e x p e r i e n c e this and e x p r e s s himself?

Heart Issues – how does he v i e w his situation?

Consequences – how does God deal with him?

Provisions – what has God provided for Moses?

Principle: God may in a single set of circumstances be testing different people in different ways.



Lessons for Living

God is at work to e x p o s e what is in your heart.

Your heart exerts an inescapable c o n t r o l over your behavior – your actions and emotions.

P h y s i c a l weakness and vulnerability are special times of testing and temptation for our good.

Complaining is both a s i n and a s y m p t o m.

There is neither t a s k nor t r i a l too great for us to bear; God has made provision for them both.

Our great and merciful High Priest has been t e m p t e d just as we are and is able to come to our aid.

Questions for Discussion

What is God doing in the wilderness?

Why does God test us?



How do these categories of temptation come to us?

What is the focus of Satan's temptation? What is he challenging?

What are the implications for us when the occasion for Jesus' testing is an issue of the body?

How does Jesus respond to every temptation? Why?

What is going on in your life that is like Numbers 11?

How does Jesus provide you help in times of need?

Notes