

Oscar Chavez - Lead Pastor - 9/03/23 Series: Lessons from the Wilderness

"Helping people experience the hope found in a life-changing relationship with Jesus".

There are many different seasons in our lives, and they all come with a purpose.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

3 To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven.

6 Spiritual seasons of Life

- 1. The Dry Season
- 2. The Waiting Season
- 3. The Grinding Season
- 4. The Spiritual Warfare Season
- 5. The Happy Season
- 6. The season of the wilderness

Have you ever been there?

It is extremely important to know the purpose of the season that we're in or to discern the season we're in so we will know what to do and how to behave.

1 Chronicles 12:32

Understanding the spiritual season you are in is essential for the growth of your faith and relationship with God.

Understanding from God's perspective the season of wilderness in our lives

Exodus Chapters 14-17

1. Times in the wilderness should be expected.

2. The Purpose of the wilderness. God took them to the wilderness with a purpose.

Deuteronomy 8:1-2

² And you shall <u>remember</u> that the Lord your God led you all the way <u>these forty years in the wilderness</u>, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

To humble you.

³ So He humbled you, <u>allowed you to hunger</u>, <u>and fed you with manna which you did not know</u> nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

To test you.

Exodus 16:4

³² of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do....

⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.

3. Learning to trust God in the wilderness.

Exodus 14

1 Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ² "Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea. ³ For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.'



Things we Learn from the wilderness.

- In the wilderness many times God will make you face your biggest obstacles.
- In your journey there will be people that will be there to support you and others will be there just to complain and whine.
- In your wilderness you can't stay still, you have to keep moving. You will be depressed, confused, uncertain. Just keep moving forward knowing that God is leading the way.

Exo. 14

¹⁹ And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.

The presence of the Lord will be there. He will guide you.

- God will take you to the wilderness for a purpose, but your response in the desert will be the decisive factor of whether God takes you out of the wilderness or leaves you there longer.
- In the wilderness if you pray to the Lord, He will always show up. Maybe not with what you want but with what He wants for you.
- It should have been an 11-day journey but instead it took them 40 years in the wilderness.
- In the wilderness you can experience God's miracles, or you can let your pride blind you. Didn't they see what He was doing?

Deuteronomy 8:1-2

² And you shall <u>remember</u> that the Lord your God led you all the way <u>these forty years in the wilderness</u>, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.