

Sermon Based Small Group Discussion

TESTING IN THE WILDERNESS - Pastor Ken Dyck

September 17, 2023

1 Corinthians 10:13 / Exodus 14 – 20

Intro: in the first few minutes of the message, the question was asked: “how many of you are currently in a season of wilderness?”

1. Think back to your most recent “wilderness experience.”
 - When was it? (it may be even be right now)
 - What made that season of your life a “wilderness experience?”
What was going on?
 - How long did it last? What made it end?
2. How did you initially respond towards God in your most recent wilderness season?
 - I grumbled
 - I asked God what He was trying to teach me in this season and how He wanted me to respond?
 - Other:
3. Think deeply and carefully. You will not be asked to share the details behind your next answer unless you want to.
To the best of your understanding, was your most recent wilderness experience...
 - Due to sin in your life?
 - A result of foolish or impulsive decisions
 - A test initiated by God to strengthen or deepen your character?
 - A spiritual attack from the devil trying to destroy you or “take you Out?”
4. Ken talked about the temptation, in times of testing, to return to Egypt.
 - What is your “Egypt”?
In other words, to what behavior, habit, mindset or place are you tempted to return when life gets difficult?
 - What does your “Egypt” provide for you that makes the temptation attractive? (Don’t say “nothing;” you’re smarter than that!)

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5. One of the tests Israel faces was how they would respond towards leadership during their wilderness experience. To make the question more personal and Practical...

... under whose leadership have you placed yourself?

... and what does that practically look like?

(Ken: I know most of us consider ourselves under “God’s leadership.” In His wisdom and experience with us, however, He has commanded us to submit to one another. He has also given us specific lines of authority, accountability and submission to respect on earth. So back to the question, under whose leadership have you placed yourself?)

6. For most people, it is difficult to remain fully dependent upon God during seasons of blessing! For you personally, what are satan’s best strategies to trip you up during these seasons?

7. What was the most encouraging thing you heard in this Sunday’s message?

What was the most challenging?

8. Why do you attend this church? Why do you keep attending?

How does any or all of the message apply to our church?

Something to think about this week: (read out loud but do not discuss)

If God would show up in all His power and holiness in three days, and give you those three days to clean up and purify your life, what would you have to change?

Think carefully: Then, why is it that you allow this in your life?

Note: this is not a question of condemnation? It is designed to help you become honest with yourself and learn something about yourself/your current life. If you are honest, your answer may even be the reason for your next wilderness season.