

**THE WILDERNESS**

- A time in a person’s life when his or her **SOUL** is parched or dry
- When **LIFE** is hard
- When the **FUTURE** seems barren
- When as far as you can see, there is nothing but **DEVASTATION**
- When you wonder if there’s any **WAY OUT**
- And you may even feel the **ABSENCE** of God’s presence
- That God can use to prepare us for **BLESSING** and **BATTLE**

**THE KEY: Don’t **WASTE** your wilderness!**

*“The idea of living for God without living in community may appeal to our rugged sense of individualism, but it is completely foreign to what the Scriptures teach.” – Rob Renfroe*

- *“Love each other...”* JOHN 15:12
- *“... serve one another...”* GALATIANS 5:13
- *“Share each other’s burdens...”* GALATIANS 6:2
- *“... teach each other...”* ROMANS 15:14
- *“...encourage each other...”* 1 THESSALONIANS 4:18

Life, according to the Bible, is all about **RELATIONSHIPS**

- With **GOD**
- With **OTHERS**

[Jesus] *“You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” – MATTHEW 22:37-40*

\*Unless otherwise noted, all scripture references are from the New Living Translation of the Bible

Why don’t we reach out for help?

1. **SELF-PITY** = *“No one cares; I’m all alone.”*
  - We focus on our **PROBLEMS** and not our **RESOURCES**
2. **PRIDE** = *“I can handle this on my own.”*
  - We **CLOSE** people off which often **KEEPS** us in the wilderness all our lives
3. **FALSE HUMILITY** = *“It’s not that bad.”*
  - We don’t get to decide if we are **WORTHY** of someone else’s attention or help or kindness; God **SAYS** we are.
4. **FALSE SPIRITUALITY** = *“Because I have a relationship with God, I don’t really need others in my life. I should be able to handle this on my own.”*
  - God made us with a **NEED** for other people
  - *“It is not good for the man to be alone.” – GENESIS 2:18*

Lessons from Moses on Walking with Others in the Wilderness

1. We lean in to **PEOPLE** who can help us
  - We need to be **CAUTIOUS** and **WISE** about who we open up to
2. We lean in to the **POWER** of forgiveness
  - If we focus too much on what was done in the **PAST**, we will never see what God is doing in the **PRESENT**
3. We lean away from the **CORRECTION** of our faultfinders
  - Don’t live for your **CRITICS**; live for your **CREATOR**
  - Live for the **APPROVAL** of One

*“Our relationships with other people can make us or break us. In life, and especially in the wilderness, one of the great gifts God gives us is other people of faith who will love and encourage us and be our eyes, showing us a way through.”*