

A TIME OR SEASON IN OUR LIVES WHEN WE ARE:**OVERWHELMED TESTED TEMPTED**Our hearts are **HEAVY** Our spirits are **DRY**And we wonder how we are going to **MAKE IT****IT IS ALSO A TIME OR SEASON:**Of enormous **OPPORTUNITIES**To learn to **TRUST** God in a deeper wayTo grow **CLOSER** to Him than ever beforeTo be **TRANSFORMED** into the image of Christ**WE ENTER THE WILDERNESS BY:**

- Our **ACTIONS** and **DECISIONS**
- The actions and decision of **OTHERS**
- The **NATURAL FLOW** of life
- The **PLAN** of God

THE CAUTION:**We can extend our time in the wilderness by taking****WRONG TURNS****THREE WRONG TURNS THE ISRAELITES MADE IN THE WILDERNESS**

1. They turned their **MOUTHS** against God grumbling and complaining

"The LORD will give you meat to eat in the evening and bread to satisfy you in the morning, for he has heard all your complaints against him. What have we done? Yes, your complaints are against the LORD, not against us." EXODUS 16:8

"When we get into that place of self-pity where we are complaining and grumbling, very often what's beneath our words is anger with God for allowing us to go through the very trials we need in order to become more like Jesus." Rob Renfroe, *A Way Through the Wilderness* (105)

THE TAKEAWAY: Be careful to use your words to bring your needs and questions to God, not to set your life **AGAINST** God.

2. They turned their EARS to the wrong people for advice

"A rabble of non-Israelites went with them, along with great flocks and herds of livestock." EXODUS 12:38

"Then the foreign rabble who were traveling with the Israelites began to crave the good things of Egypt. And the people of Israel also began to complain. 'Oh, for some meat!' they exclaimed." NUMBERS 11:4

"When we are in the wilderness, the rabble will come." Renfroe, (114)

THE TAKEAWAY: Don't listen to the **RABBLE**

3. They turned their EYES away from God

"More than anything else, what kept the Israelites out of the Promised Land was their habit of continually focusing on their problems rather than looking for God." Renfroe, (116)

"The people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak... We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are... All the people we saw were huge. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!" NUMBERS 13:28, 31-33

THE TAKEAWAY: Choose to focus on God's **PROMISES** and His **POWER** more than your **PROBLEMS**

More important that what happens TO YOU in the wilderness is what happens IN YOU

"But take heart, because I have overcome the world."
JOHN 16:33 [JESUS]