

Lesson #2

MMBC

The Wilderness Experience of David

THE WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

One author called the wilderness “an in-between place”.

*the in-between PLACE*

What does it take to rule God’s people as a king? Perhaps God felt the wilderness would serve as a the best place to develop David’s character. David was not in the wilderness forever. You will not be either. God had the timetable set when David would return to be crowned king over Israel. He was in the wilderness for training only. His training was temporary. His ministry was back in Israel. The wilderness served as a place of preparation for David.

**Discussion**

What do we take from this? The purpose of the wilderness is not an end in itself. It is the means to the goal. Let’s reflect on the journey. What have you been through or currently going through that you realize is part of the process?

During the process, we learn we are completely in God’s hands and are at His disposal. Record Romans 8:28 here: \_\_\_\_\_

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What is according to His purpose?

What have you learned thus far in your wilderness experience?

Read 1 Samuel 23:14-18 NIV

Discuss “But God did not give David into his hands...”

What important role did Jonathan play in this episode?

How does Jonathan confirm what God has promised? Look closely at verse 17.

Who has God sent into your life to reaffirm your assignment while you are in the wilderness?

So, we see much of David’s wilderness experience was spent running from King Saul who was trying to kill him. Remember, by this time, David had been anointed as the next king of Judah. It had been reaffirmed by Jonathan. However, he had to run for his life. On several occasions David could have ended the saga between he and King Saul. Read 1 Samuel 26:7-9.

- What did Abishai want to do?
- What was David's response?
- How would you have responded at an opportunity to move your adversary out of the way?

Define the word integrity:

How would you describe David's integrity in this text?

Background Scripture: Psalm 63

### **Sometimes Things Seem Out of Control**

The background of Psalm 63 is David's own son, Absalom, started a revolt against his own father. David fled east to the Judean desert.

Describe David's desire in the psalm to still worship God even though he was not in the sanctuary in Jerusalem. He desired to continue his worship even in the wilderness.

Is your worship on hold while you are in the wilderness?

Listen to the metaphor. David said he thirsted for the Lord!

Why is his focus not on Absalom and instead, on the Lord?

What does this teach us about staying focused?

What else do you see or hear in Psalm 63?

Do you think David was assured of God's protection? Where did you hear that in the psalm?

What did David say was better than life in verse 3? \_\_\_\_\_

The Hebrew word for loving kindness is *hesed*. It is one of the most powerful words in the Old Testament. It resembles the words loving kindness.

David as a shepherd over sheep and David as a shepherd over God's flock:

What lessons did David learn about shepherding that he could use as a shepherd of God's people?

Who did David call his Shepherd?

David rejoices in the shadows of God's wings!

Our next study...Elijah

1 Kings 17:1-6, 1 Kings 19:3-18

Please also adjust your schedule. We will be including a lady in the line-up as I have been led. We will discuss **Hagar's wilderness experience after** Elijah's experience and before the Israelites' experience.