

- I. ONE THING—The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

II. MEDITATION

- A. Review your class notes from Tuesday.

- Take some time to think about the main ideas of the lesson. Find the audio message on our website under the Resources tab. (www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com).
- Which of the scriptures referenced were particularly meaningful to you? Write out those verses below and spend some time studying them this week.

- B. Rewrite your One Thing into a prayer, expressing your heart's desire for God to make this truth become your experience.

- C. Sing about what you're learning. It's helpful in connecting emotionally to the truth.

- Listen to the songs from this week's playlist:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBL8waErHIN7A-mZp6IO6qpzwp0UrGEUT>
- Enjoy this year's songs on Spotify or on our DDD You Tube channel (see handout):
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBL8waErHIN6ncxj-5uV0AXyVObmZeAL>

III. PRINCIPLES

These principles will help you understand God's purposes for your Wilderness areas:

A. WILDERNESS MINDSETS REVIEW

- We can begin finding life in the Wilderness by remembering that God has led us there and intends to use that time and space to shower us with many benefits.
- The challenge is to keep our minds fixed on God and His good intentions instead of on the difficulty of our present circumstances.
- Our mindsets are the starting points for how we approach a Wilderness or any other situation. These thought patterns set our course and greatly influence the outcome.
- God offers to help us negotiate each Wilderness circumstance if we only ask for His wisdom. When He gives it, we must set our minds and feet as He has spoken: James 1:5-8 JBP—If...any of you does not know how to meet any particular problem he has only to ask God—who gives generously to all men without making them feel foolish or guilty—and he may be quite sure that the necessary wisdom will be given him. But he must ask in sincere faith without secret doubts as to whether he really wants God's help or not. The man who trusts God, but with inward reservations, is like a wave of the sea, carried forward by the wind one moment and driven back the next. That sort of man cannot hope to receive anything from God, and the life of a man of divided loyalty will reveal instability at every turn.
- When we're double-minded, not fully committed to God's way, we'll be unsteady just like most of the 1st generation in the Wilderness.
- Moses had a Wilderness Mindset of Insecurity that he had to overcome in order to believe and receive all that God had in store for him and those he served. (Exod. 3)
- We need the Holy Spirit to enable us to exchange human reason for a glimpse of the new things He is doing and His pathway there: 1 Cor 2:9-10-- As it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit.

Insights:

B. PROMISED LAND PREVIEW

- After God delivered His people from Egypt they journeyed to Mt Sinai. They camped there about a year making ready to enter and possess Canaan (Num 1 – 10).
- God led them to the oasis of Kadesh-barnea in the wilderness of Paran just outside of the Promised Land: Num 13:1-3 NLT-- The Lord now said to Moses, "Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land I am giving to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of the twelve ancestral tribes." So Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He sent out twelve men, all tribal leaders of Israel, from their camp in the wilderness of Paran.
- The spies were selected and deployed according to God's instructions. Remember, no Israelite had set eyes on Canaan for 400 years: Num 14:17-20 NLT-- Moses gave the men these instructions as he sent them out to explore the land: "Go north through the Negev into the hill country. See what the land is like, and find out whether the people living there are strong or weak, few or many. See what kind of land they live in. Is it good or bad? Do their towns have walls, or are they unprotected like open camps? Is the soil fertile or poor? Are there many trees? Do your best to bring back samples of the crops you see." (It happened to be the season for harvesting the first ripe grapes.)

- The people were seeing God’s word prove true. It really was “a land flowing with milk and honey,” good for farming and yielding abundant fruit (vv. 25-27).
- The Promised Land (a metaphor for life in the Spirit) was certainly a desirable place and would definitely be worth a fight.
- Taking possession of the Promised Land would be no small task. The people must be prepared for this reality: Num 13:28, 33 NLT-- But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak...Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that’s what they thought, too!”
- Unless they set their minds on God’s promises and faithfulness, the children of Israel would stop short of the victory and possessing their inheritance.

Insights:

C. WILDERNESS MINDSET: COMPROMISE

- The Hebrews had God’s presence and God’s promise. All that was required for them to live out their destiny was a mindset of faith and dependence on God.
- In light of the great challenge ahead of them, the majority of the people displayed a mindset of compromise: Num 13:30-32 NLT-- But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. “Let’s go at once to take the land,” he said. “We can certainly conquer it!” But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. “We can’t go up against them! They are stronger than we are!” ³² So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: “The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there.
- Compromise (13th c.)--To make a mutual promise: *Com* = “with, together, beside, or near” + *promittere* = “to send forth, assure beforehand, promise” (etymology.com)
- Today, compromise means, “making concessions to settle an issue.” The COI were way ahead of their time! They were willing to settle for less than God’s best.
- These underlying thinking patterns contributed to their willingness to compromise:
 1. Comfort
 - The camp at Kadesh-barnea was an oasis place. It was comfortable and risk-free.
 - The Promised Land involves change, challenge and conflict (for them and for us!). Rather than face all that, there’s an easy and predictable option—the status quo.
 - It’s uncomfortable to follow God to places other people are not willing to go!
 - When the majority chose to compromise, they introduced an atmosphere of fear instead of faith. Fear of Man was a particular temptation (inside and outside camp).

- Besides Moses, Aaron, Joshua, and Caleb, we see no evidence of the other leaders urging the people to push past their comfort zones: Heb 10:23-24 NIV-- Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds
- When God sets us apart as His people, He does so for His own glory. This will benefit us beyond our imagination:
 - Glorious Destiny:
 - Is 43:7 NLT-- Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them
 - Ps 73:24 NLT-- You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny.
 - Eph 3:20 NLT-- Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.
 - Eph 1:18 JBP-- God, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ and the all-glorious Father, will give you spiritual wisdom and the insight to know more of him: that you may receive that inner illumination of the spirit which will make you realize how great is the hope to which he is calling you—the magnificence and splendor of the inheritance promised to Christians—and how tremendous is the power available to us who believe in God.
- Glory and its benefits sound great until we're faced with the responsibilities of being God's child. A mindset of comfort wants all the benefits with none of the costs:
 - Calculate the cost: Mt 10:38-39 NLT-- If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.
 - Death to self: 2 Cor 5:15-- He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.
- God wanted the people to understand the cost of taking possession of the Promised Land. It would stretch their faith and require a large investment on their part: Mt 6:21 MSG-- It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.
- It's noteworthy that there has been no time in history when the Israelites have been in physical possession of all the territory promised to them by God.
- As Kingdom people, there is always more available to us. The Wilderness helps us get in touch with our desire for the new thing God has in store: Lk 5:39 NLT-- But no one who drinks the old wine seems to want the new wine. 'The old is just fine,' they say."

Insights:

2. Concession

- Possession of the Promised Land involved engaging with the enemy. Instead of trusting God for the victory, they made up their minds to concede without a fight.
- Concede = "yield to pressure or circumstances" (dictionary.com)
- This mindset of concession was contrary to the proclamation they heard before every move in The Wilderness. They journeyed forth with this battle cry: Num 10:35--

So it was, whenever the ark set out, that Moses said: “Rise up, O Lord! Let Your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate You flee before You.”

- God fought for them against Egypt: Ex 14:13-14 NLT-- But Moses told the people, “Don’t be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again. The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm.”
- The Lord already said He would give them Canaan (v. 13:1) and had promised that every enemy would run from them: Ex 23:27 NLT-- I will send my terror ahead of you and create panic among all the people whose lands you invade. I will make all your enemies turn and run.
- What happened to the people? Although the odds were stacked in their favor, the COI seemed to have lost their appetite and vision for the abundance awaiting them.
- Conceding ground to the enemy may appear to be the easier option. However, there are unforeseen consequences to this line of thinking and course of action.
- One important thing to consider about yielding to this mindset – you are also conceding the blessings of seeing God work supernaturally in your life.
- “Complacency is usually marked by limited enemy opposition—which might be nice if it weren’t also limited in terms of exhilaration, joy, purpose, and the experience of God’s supernatural power.” (Priscilla Shirer)
- Finding life in The Wilderness may be risky and challenging, but it is never dull. Conceding ground to the enemy may be easy, but it leads to mediocrity.
- LISTENING EXERCISE:
Search my heart now, O Lord, and show me any area(s) where I’ve lost my zeal for more of You, Your kingdom, and Your glory:

- Taking possession of the territory that He has promised is going to require us to hope in Him without compromising: Is 40:22-31 NLT-- He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. ²³ He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. ²⁴ No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff. ²⁵ “To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. ²⁷ Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God”? ²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Insights:

II. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

- Use your “Tools & Techniques” pages (blue) to supplement the teaching in areas where you need strengthening:
 - Listening to God – examines the Scriptures about our communion with the Lord
 - Elevation and Articulation (I Feel But God Says) -- helps you hold the truth of what God has said higher than your thoughts and emotions
 - Liberation – gives you ammunition to overcome a works mindset
 - Who I Am – assists you in anchoring your identity in the truth of who God is for you
 - Call Upon the Name of the Lord – uses the names of God to help you know Him better
- Set aside some time for listening to God. He will feed and fuel you with His Word. Use these suggested steps to help you get started:
 1. Pray for God to open the eyes of your heart to see and know Him.
 2. Pour out your heart to Him verbally or in your journal.
 3. Go to Scriptures that are relevant to your issue (use a concordance or Bible website).
 4. Write down the verses that speak to you most. Pray them back to God.
 5. Listen for His response, as you are silent before Him.
 6. Keep a written record of your dialogue and be sure to review it often.
 7. Use the handout “Tools & Techniques: Listening to God” for practical help and Scriptural support. Contact your leader if you have questions.
- Listening Prayer helps us find out where our Wilderness Mindsets got started:
 - Get in touch with your predominant emotions. Write them down and feel the feelings.
 - Ask the Lord to show you an event or environment where these feelings got started. It could be something in your recent or distant past. Write it down.
 - What is the message you came to believe? Usually the first thing that springs to mind is your “truth” even though you may know better. Record that thought.
 - Ask the Lord: What’s the truth about this? Write down the thoughts that come to mind.
 - Be sure to check that this truth is consistent with the character of God and His Word. If you need help with this, reach out to your leader or other trusted spiritual advisor.
- Learn to recognize your Wilderness and its beneficial purposes. Be on the alert for any seeds of pride that begin to spring up.
- Practice Wilderness Worship to grow in intimacy with God during this season using Supplication, Silence, Song, and Surrender.
- Our challenge on this journey through The Wilderness is keep our eyes off of our circumstances and to stay focused on our Rock, Jesus.
- As we put aside leaning on our own understanding, we will be transformed by God: Song 8:5-- Who is this coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved