

- 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=PLBL8waErHIN5msy4fLAP2k6jL4bPxs9ti>
- 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 OVERVIEW

- Welcome back to our journey together about discovering life in The Wilderness!
- God has many good purposes when we experience a God-appointed Wilderness:
 - Testing
 - Time Out
 - Therapeutic
 - Transformation
 - Preparation
 - Power
 - Worship
 - Hunger and Thirst for God and His Word
 - Humility
 - Shaping Character
 - Waiting/Perseverance
 - Purification
- We will continue on with our quest with these benefits in mind and will explore one or two more purposes while at the same time shifting our focus in the next few lessons.
- The Lord desires for us to learn to wait on Him and to do so in such a way that we experience His love and blessing in the gap between here and the Promised Land.
- We have seen 3 individuals who walked with God in The Wilderness in such a way that they did more than survive. Moses, Joshua, and Caleb actually thrived there!
- They walked wholeheartedly and intimately with God. Millions of other people didn't benefit from the Wilderness due to mindsets inconsistent with God's truth.

Insights:

B. WILDERNESS MINDSETS

- God offers life abundant even in The Wilderness. Yet we often lose perspective of that life by becoming focused on the hostile conditions surrounding us.
- When we operate under "Wilderness Mindsets," we may actually perpetuate and possibly expand the barren, dry territory in our lives where it's hard to find God.
- Our work is to turn our focus toward the Lord and His Word in order to receive all the benefits He desires to give us in this place: Is 43:19 NLT-- For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.
- Finding this newness requires us to let Him speak into our hearts and minds. He exposes lies and gaps in our thinking and replaces them with life-giving words:
 - Eph 4:23 NLT-- Let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.
 - Rom 12:2-- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- It takes time, attention, and focus to unlearn our old way of thinking and embrace what God says instead.
- The Promised Land in Bible typology is a metaphor for abundant, Spirit-filled life.
- The Holy Spirit is needed to "change our minds for the better" or to repent (the literal meaning from Strong's G3340): 2 Tim 2:25-- In humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth
- Without living in agreement with the Spirit on this journey, we'll always default to leaning on our own understanding instead of leaning on our Beloved: Rom 8:5-8 ESV-- Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those

who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- Until we hit a Wilderness hot spot, we are often unaware that we have mindsets that are contrary to God and His revealed word. The Wilderness will expose them!

Insights:

C. IDENTITY IN ISOLATION

- The Father often speaks to His children about their true identity. Knowing His love and acceptance of us as His flawed, forgiven, and favored people is transformative.
- He longs for us to be free of the insecurities we are prone to feel. Sometimes He uses a Wilderness stint to help us grasp the crucial truth about who we really are.
- Moses, at age 40, fled Egypt after killing an Egyptian. He spent 40 years in The Wilderness tending sheep, marrying, and starting a family: Exodus 3 NLT-- One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. ³ "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it." ⁴ When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am!" Moses replied. ⁵ "Do not come any closer," the Lord warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. ⁶ I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ Then the Lord told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live. ⁹ Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. ¹⁰ Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹² God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain." ¹³ But Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?" ¹⁴ God replied to Moses, "I am who I am. Say this to the people of Israel: I am has sent me to you." ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my eternal name, my name to remember for all generations.

¹⁶“Now go and call together all the elders of Israel. Tell them, ‘Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me. He told me, “I have been watching closely, and I see how the Egyptians are treating you.” ¹⁷ I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.” ¹⁸“The elders of Israel will accept your message. Then you and the elders must go to the king of Egypt and tell him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. So please let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord, our God.’

¹⁹“But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand forces him. ²⁰ So I will raise my hand and strike the Egyptians, performing all kinds of miracles among them. Then at last he will let you go. ²¹ And I will cause the Egyptians to look favorably on you. They will give you gifts when you go so you will not leave empty-handed. ²² Every Israelite woman will ask for articles of silver and gold and fine clothing from her Egyptian neighbors and from the foreign women in their houses. You will dress your sons and daughters with these, stripping the Egyptians of their wealth.”

- Notice that two of the mindsets keeping Moses from receiving all God had promised: a) Insecurity about his identity (v. 11) and b) Insecurity about God’s identity (v. 13ff).
- “We always find our identity in our god...Our god is the person or thing we believe has the greatest power to determine who we are, why we’re here, what we should do, and what we’re worth. Our god is what we can’t help but seek and follow, because we believe our god’s promises will bring us the greatest happiness.” (Jon Bloom)
- God used this Wilderness experience to expose Moses’ Wilderness mindsets, insecurities that would hinder him in his relationships and in his calling.

Insights:

D. WILDERNESS OF INSECURITY

- Insecurity about ourselves prevents us from finding life in The Wilderness!
- In the course of our lives we all encounter painful experiences that cause us to have an inaccurate, unbiblical view of ourselves. This was certainly the case with Moses.
- Here are some common reasons why we harbor insecurities about our identity:
 1. Self-Focus
 - Moses hears God’s call and is flooded with numerous thoughts about his own inadequacies. He was impaired in his ability to grasp God’s power and promises.
 - Instead of focusing on God’s provision, he focused on his lack of: importance (v.11), knowledge (v. 13), community influence (v. 4:1), and speaking talent.
 - When focused on ourselves it is difficult to see, hear or connect to God and others. Insecurity hinders the very relationships that we were made to enjoy.
 - This self-oriented mindset makes us prone to judging and it seems nobody measures up. We feel disappointed in ourselves and everyone else!
 - Throughout the Bible God responds to His children with love and mercy. He stands ready be our security, delivering us from fear and shame: Ps 34:4-5 NIV-- I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.

2. Fear of Man

- Moses was willing to say “no” to God and miss his destiny because of fear of man: Ex 4:1 NLT-- But Moses protested again, “What if they won’t believe me or listen to me? What if they say, ‘The Lord never appeared to you?’”
- God tells us over and over in Scripture the pitfalls of fearing man, yet so often our thinking is tainted with the desire to have the good opinion of men: Pr 29:25—Fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.
- Fear of man tells us to avoid anything with the potential for being misunderstood, criticized, or rejected. This mindset gives unwarranted power to others.
- Fear of man can be overcome as we make the Lord our security: Pr 1:33 ESV-- Whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.

3. Works Mentality

- Moses may not have dealt with his guilt over killing an Egyptian (Ex 2:12).
- We, too, may harbor insecurity, guilt, and accusation because we haven’t believed and received Christ’s righteousness: 2 Cor 5:21-- For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- Underneath this mindset is the erroneous belief that our worth is determined by our attributes and actions. In the world’s system that is true, but not in God’s!
- We don’t have to be perfect to be accepted by God and our works don’t determine our worth. We stand secure before God in the finished work of Jesus.
- See “Tools & Techniques: Liberation” for biblical support.
- God can set us free from insecurity based on a mindset of self-reliance!

4. Questioning God

- At this point in his life, Moses didn’t know God very well. His insecurity included a lack of emotional safety (trust) with God. He questioned God’s instructions.
- The Lord answers the insecurities expressed by Moses by beckoning him to develop a more accurate and in depth view of Himself.
- This text shows us to bring every question, fear, and objection about ourselves into the light of who God is for us. He is the “I Am” for all of our needs.
- In all the areas we feel like we will never be enough, God invites His children to a new place of security that is based on trusting Him to be enough for us.

• “ASK GOD A QUESTION”/LISTENING EXERCISE:

Dear God, please bring to mind an area of insecurity inside of me:

Name your insecurity: “I am not _____ enough.”

Which aspect of Your nature do you want to bring to this insecure place?

Now write: “Because of God, I am _____.”

- Practice letting God be your security in your places of lack by studying “Tools & Techniques: Who I Am Because of Who He Is” by Sylvia Gunter.
- Just as the Lord promised to be with Moses, He will be with us (Josh 1:5). He offers all of Himself and all the resources of heaven to help us:
 - Ps 112:7-8-- Happy are those who fear the Lord. They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord. Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid.

- 2 Cor 12:9--My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.
- God is calling us to embrace a new way of thinking and experiencing life in The Wilderness as we let go of our Wilderness Mindsets: 1 Pt 2:4-10 MSG-- Welcome to the living Stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out; God set it in the place of honor. Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you'll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God. The Scriptures provide precedent: Look! I'm setting a stone in Zion, a cornerstone in the place of honor. Whoever trusts in this stone as a foundation will never have cause to regret it. To you who trust him, he's a Stone to be proud of, but to those who refuse to trust him, the stone the workmen threw out is now the chief foundation stone. For the untrusting it's a stone to trip over, a boulder blocking the way. They trip and fall because they refuse to obey, just as predicted. ⁹⁻¹⁰ But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.

Insights:

II. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

- Use “Tools & Techniques: Elevation and Articulation” (I Feel But God Says) to help you hold the truth of what God has said higher than your thoughts and emotions.
- 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.
- 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