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## **With Me in the Wilderness: Don't Waste the Wilderness**

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**Deuteronomy 8:2 (NIV):** Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years...

**Deuteronomy 8:2 (NIV):** Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

### **Two Ways God Uses the Wilderness in Our Lives**

#### **Way #1: He Uses the Wilderness to Test Us**

**James 1:2-4 (NIV):** Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

#### **Testing Vs. Temptation**

Testing comes from God and is meant to produce maturity.  
Temptation comes from the devil and is meant to produce failure.

**Deuteronomy 8:16 (NIV):** He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you.

#### **Way #2: He Uses the Wilderness to Teach Us**

**Deuteronomy 8:3 (NIV):** He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you...

**Deuteronomy 8:3 (NIV):** ...that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

**Deuteronomy 8:4 (NIV):** Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years.

**Deuteronomy 8:5 (NIV):** Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you.