

WAITING ON GOD - Week 1

Warm-up: Have you had a period in life where you had to wait for a wanted outcome – maybe to do with a job or to hear from God about an answer to prayer? How long was the wait? How do you feel reflecting back on that time? How did you cope? Why can such periods be so difficult?

READ: Deut 8: 2-18

1. What was happening in the wilderness? What was God doing? What response was God looking for from his people (v2,3,5 and v17)?

Compare the good times with the times of wandering.

2. What comforts did God promise Israel during the time in the promised land (7-9, 12-13)?
3. What are the dangers of the times of comfort (11-14)?

READ Matt 13:20-23.

4. When can the comfort zone become toxic for God's people - for us? Why?

THE SECULAR V THE KINGDOM

5. How does the world view times of comfort v times of waiting (or wilderness)? See attached pictures.

SECULAR VIEW

Wilderness (waiting)

- Decline
- Stagnation
- Hard
- Indefinite
- Something must be wrong

Comfort

- Flourishing
- Impact
- Easy
- Instant
- Something is going right

KINGDOM VIEW

Wilderness (waiting)

- Growth
- Breakthrough
- Dependence on God
- Humility

Comfort

- Decline
- Apathy
- Distractions from God
- Pride

6. Where are you now – the Comfort zone or the Wilderness?

READ: Matt 4:1-11

7. Why did God take Jesus to the wilderness?

8. What was Satan offering Jesus?

9. How did Jesus reply?

CONCLUSION

10. How then should we react if God takes us into a period of waiting or wilderness?

11. What should we as a church be doing while we wait on God during this interim period as we await a new lead pastor?