



Series: Wisdom in the Wilderness

Passage: Numbers 20:1-12

Title: Growing Up vs Growing Old?

Speaker: Dave Menard

Discussion Starter: Is there a spiritual lesson we can learn from how God tested the Israelites these many years as they struggled in wilderness?

Personal Growth (Numbers 20:1-5)

- Do you think that there is any significance that the chapter begins with Mariam and ends with Aaron dying in the wilderness of Zin?
- Why would God once again bring the entire congregation to a place where there was no water?
- What was the makeup of this congregation that approached Moses and Aaron and how did their accusations reveal that they were growing old but not growing up?

Spiritual Growth (Numbers 20:1-5)

- Explain the difference between a life that is growing spiritually and one that is not?
- What are the key elements for a life that progresses spiritually and how does that allow us to enter into the promise land?
- How do the promises of religion fall short of being able to bring us into the promise land?
- What are the “Fruits of Faith” and how can we experience them?

Purpose of the Wilderness (Deuteronomy 8:2-3)

- What core reasons does God’s word reveal as to the purposes of testing the Israelites in the wilderness? What did God want them to learn?
- Deut 8:2–3 says, “***man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.***” This was God’s primary goal of the wilderness wanderings. What does this mean? How does it apply to us?
- Would you say that God still uses these methods with us as Christians today?

God’s Grace Moses’ Anger (Numbers 20:6-12; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6)

- How does God respond to the complaints of the congregation this time?
- Explain the important differences between the first time the water was drawn from the Rock and this time?
- God told Moses to speak to the Rock: Since the Rock represents Jesus, and the flowing water represents God’s blessings from the Holy Spirit, how does all this apply to us today as Christians?
- Moses gets angry and misrepresents God as he elevates himself. What can we learn from this about anger? About pride? About our witness to others?