

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

The Danger of Prosperity Deuteronomy 8:1-20

Danger of Prosperity

Deuteronomy 8:11-14

“Beware lest you forget the Lord your God...lest, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, then your heart becomes proud, and you forget the Lord your God...”

Danger of Prosperity

Prosperity’s Potential Pitfalls:

- *“forget the Lord your God”*
 - Self-reliance and self-sufficiency
 - Lack of dependence on God
 - Disobedience to God
 - Idolatry

Danger of Prosperity

Antidotes to Prosperity’s Dangers

- *“remember the Lord your God”*
 - Preparation of the Wilderness
 - Perspective on Wealth

Danger of Prosperity

1. Wilderness Preparation

- *the necessity of the wilderness*
 - the wilderness is God’s design
 - the wilderness is necessary in order to experience Canaan rightly

Danger of Prosperity

1. Wilderness Preparation

- *the purpose of the wilderness* – it was God’s loving discipline (8:5)

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Hebrews 12:6-11

"For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives..."

... He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness.

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness."

Danger of Prosperity

1. Wilderness Preparation

➤ *the purpose of the wilderness*

- God's loving discipline to test and strengthen the reality of our faith
- God's loving discipline to make us deeply conscious of our dependence on Him
- God's loving discipline to teach us that we live by His word (*lesson of manna*)

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2. Perspective on Wealth

➤ *the Lord gives power to make wealth*

- Wealth is ultimately a gift enabled by God not our resources and abilities
- Wealth is entrusted to us by God to be managed for His kingdom purposes

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2. Perspective on Wealth

"God prospers me not to raise my standard of living but to raise my standard of giving"

– R. Alcorn

Danger of Prosperity

1 Timothy 6:17-19

"Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,

storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed."