

Scarcity and Abundance

Given the choice between living in a time of scarcity or abundance most likely each of us would choose abundance, right? Certainly that's what the nation of Israel was eagerly anticipating as she prepared to enter the Promised Land. It seems so much more preferable. And yet for Israel and for us, both scarcity and abundance come with their own challenges to staying in a right relationship with God. Today's passage speaks of these very things to the children of Israel. The truth that Moses puts before Israel is just as relevant for us in our day. And so whether this is a season of scarcity or a season of abundance for you, may you hear God's wisdom for you in Deuteronomy 8.

Opening Discussion: Would you say that right now your life is more characterized by scarcity or abundance? Why?

Read Deuteronomy 8

1. Moses tells the people that once they are in the land they are to remember all the ways that God led them in the wilderness (v. 2). What kinds of things did the people need to remember about their season of scarcity (vv. 2-6)?
2. What does Moses say is the proper response to experiencing abundance (vv. 7-10)?
3. What warnings does Moses give about abundance (vv. 11-18)?
4. What is the connection between experiencing abundance and forgetting God?
5. The themes of remembering (2, 18) and forgetting (v. 11, 14, 19) are big in this chapter. What kinds of things do we need to remember in times of scarcity? In times of abundance?

6. Is it harder for you to maintain a vibrant/trusting/faith-filled relationship with God in times of abundance or in times of scarcity? Why?
7. Read Philippian 4:10-13. What perspectives does Paul offer regarding living with either scarcity or abundance?
8. Paul makes it clear that he needed Christ's strength in times of abundance just as much as in times of scarcity. Have you ever thought that you need Jesus' strength to handle any abundance you might experience just as much as any scarcity?
9. What do you sense is the main point of application for you from this study?