²Remember 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. Deuteronomy 8:2-3

For the past four months we have been studying the life of Moses for our Thursday night bible study. We have seen how Moses led 2 million Israelites out of bondage from Egypt. The Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt occurred in the 13th century BC. As Moses led the children of Israel, the people complained to Moses and God that despite being in slavery for 400 years, their lives were better in bondage than wandering in the wilderness for 40 years.

The Israelites failed to see that God allows us to suffer difficulties for a purpose. God led the children of Israel in the wilderness in order to test what was in their hearts. Did you know that if the Israelites had obeyed God, the journey would have only taken **11 days**, instead it took 40 years!

You may be going through a test of faith right now. How do you respond when life gets difficult? Will you complain and curse God for your circumstances as the Israelites did? Or, will you use this as an opportunity for God to move and work this in your life for good. We cannot escape life's trials but we can learn and grow from it. We can learn that God is good even amidst this evil. We can grow in our prayer life as we lift up the needs of our nation and around the world. We can grow spiritually as we see how God's Word can sustain us, comfort us, and challenge us to a deeper relationship with Him.

When Job lost his health, wealth, family in a matter of hours, his wife said in Job 2:9 "Curse God and die." In your trials you can curse God or grow.

Thought For Today: How are you feeling today? Think about your attitude and your faith. What are you learning about God during this time of trial? Take time to reflect upon that today.

Today's Prayer Focus: Cast all your cares and trials upon God for he cares for you. (I Peter 5:7) Deo Volente.