

### LED TO THE WILD

IN THE WILD WE ENCOUNTER GOD THE SPIRIT  
(our Trusted Guide that helps and directs us)  
WHO LEADS US TO STRENGTH.

**25** "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. **26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. **27** Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. -Jn 14:25-27

#### **I. Experiencing Jesus in the Wild (Mt 4:1-11)**

The Temptation to Cave-in, Control, and Compromise

##### **A. Cave so we can FEEL GOOD**

"tell these stones to become bread"

-Jesus withstood the Idol of Comfort

##### **B. Control so we can LOOK GOOD**

"throw yourself down"

-Jesus repelled the Idol of Power

##### **C. Compromise so we can DO GOOD**

"if you worship me"

-Jesus resisted the Idol of Achievement

#### **II. Led by the Spirit INTO the WILDERNESS**

##### **A. There's Value in Being There:**

-the promise of adventure and the probability of danger

**12** The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. **13** And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. **Mk 1:12-13**

ADVENTURE IS INHERENTLY DANGEROUS...  
WITHOUT IT, YOUR JUST TAKING A HIKE IN THE WOODS

The Testing we walk through in the wild builds into us:

##### 1. Dependence in GOD'S FULLNESS

-lasting comfort is found in him

##### 2. Humility in GOD'S GREATNESS

-we win when God is glorified

##### 3. Trust in GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

-He is doing great work through us as we walk in obedience to Him

## **B. Three Catalysts for Going There:**

### **1. Commit to Meditation on the Word**

- Memorization of the Word comes out in times of testing, hardship, and crisis.
- like it did for Jesus
- Psalm 119:11, Joshua 1:8

### **2. Practice Prayers of Supplication (Phil 4:6)**

- Pursue the Lord, asking him to:
  - a. supply your needs (Phil 4:19)
  - b. be glorified through your circumstances (Romans 8:28)
  - c. do what he's promised to do (Heb 10:23)

### **3. Invest in Fellowship of Believers (Romans 12:4-5)**

-As we choose to commit, practice, and invest, God develops wise faith in us that *PERSEVERES*

## **3. The Danger in Staying There:**

-The avoidance of the "Wild" keeps us from experiencing the strength and adventure found IN it & the resentment of the "Wild" causes us to miss out on what God is trying to teach us THROUGH it.

-But the *OVER*-emphasis of staying in the "Wild" and refusing to go out eventually ends in a victim-mentality that turns into isolation.

**THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HOPELESSNESS OF ISOLATION  
AND THE RICHNESS OF SOLITUDE:  
LIES IN THE MIRACLE OF COMMUNITY FOUND IN JESUS**

## **III. Following Jesus into the Wilderness (Mt 17:1-8)**

### **A. Taken with Christ**

- "led them up"*
  - "by themselves"*
  - "Moses and Elijah"*
- (Mt 5:17)

### **B. Spoken by God**

- "my beloved son":* Affection
- "whom i am well please":* Affirmation
- "listen to him":* Authority

### **C. Purpose and Promise:**

- "fell on their faces and were terrified"*
- "but Jesus came"*
- "touched them"*
- "rise, and have no fear"*
- "they lifted up their eyes they saw no one but Jesus"*

#### **D. RESPONDING to the Call of Christ**

- 1. SEE IT:** How are we lifting up our eyes to Jesus as he has asked?
- 2. HEAR IT:** Who are we listening to? Is it Jesus as God has commanded?
- 3. DO IT:** Where are we being led to the mountains as the Spirit has guided?

*14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

**Hebrews 4:14-16**