

Message Text: Matthew 4:1-11

Message Title: The Desert

BIG IDEA: The Word of God enables us to win against temptation

Questions:

1. When you think of the actual wilderness or desert what comes to mind? What have been some memorable experiences you've had in the wilderness?
2. Read Matthew 3:13 - 4:1-11. What verse or part of this passage stands out to you? What raises question or curiosity for you?
3. Why do you think the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness right after his baptism? Why not go out into different villages and capitalize on the momentum of His baptism?
4. Even though we may resist wilderness season, Bryan said they do two things for us.
 - What were those two things?
 - Have you ever experienced a wilderness season in life and faith? If so, what was it like?
 - How were you changed coming out of it?
5. What are practical ways that you can lean into a wilderness season rather than resist it?
6. Bryan said that wilderness season exposes our "superficial securities." What did he mean by that?
7. In Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus is tempted three times. Bryan drew out four things from those three temptations. Each of the four had a superficial security connected to it and a belief that undergirded it. What were the four temptations, the superficial securities, and undergirding beliefs?
8. Which of the four areas of temptation are more apparent in your life right now? How are you seeing it play out?
9. Spend a few minutes discussing the different passages of scripture Bryan gave at the end of his message. How did spending time meditating on those passages affect your life through the week?
10. Response: Track how the four different areas of temptation come your way between now and the next time you meet as a group. See if you can discern any patterns to the circumstances when you feel most tempted.

A JOURNEY
to the
CROSS



the Desert
MATTHEW 4:1-11
Bryan Marvel

the Word of God
enables us to
FIGHT BACK
and WIN against
TEMPTATION

- JESUS WILLINGLY ENTERS THE WILDERNESS
GROWTH and FORMATION lies in wilderness situations.
He was willing to suffer in order to PREPARE
Himself for the challenges to come.
- JESUS IS TEMPTED THREE TIMES
Wilderness situations CRACK the superficial
Securities we surround ourselves with.
 - APPETITE - "change these stones to bread..."
This is the desire for comfort. PSALM 16:5+11
 - APPROVAL - "throw yourself down..."
This is the desire for significance. 1 PETER 2:9
 - ASSESSMENT - "His angels will save you..."
This is about the desire for control! PROVERBS 3:5+6
 - AMBITION - "bow down and worship..."
This is the desire for achievement. 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-11
- JESUS WINS AGAINST TEMPTATION THROUGH THE WORD.
Jesus KNOWS the Word, is SHAPED by the WORD
and FULFILLS the Word. COMPLETION and REDEMPTION



