

“The Wilderness” Part 1

Mark 1

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. **11** And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” **12** At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, **13** and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

There are three that bare witness to Jesus being the Son of God at His Baptism:

1. **John the Baptist** - “And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.” John 1:34
2. **The Holy Spirit** - the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Mark 1:10
3. **The Father** - “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” Mark 1:11

The Baptism of Jesus is a Remarkable display of a humble beginning and of Glory:

- **Jesus**: A common, unremarkable name.
- **From Nazareth**: An unremarkable, despised village.
- **Of Galilee**: The unspiritual region, not the “Bible belt” of the area at that time.
- **Was baptized**: Identified with sinful man.
- **In the Jordan**: An unremarkable – often even unpleasant – river. “Early rabbinic tradition explicitly disqualified the River Jordan for purification purposes.

The scene also displayed great glory:

- **The heavens parting**: Heaven opened wide for this. The ancient Greek for this phrase is strong. It has the idea that sky was torn in two, “being rent asunder, a sudden event.” (Bruce)
- **The Spirit descending**: The Spirit of God was present, and discernable.
- **Like a dove**: [Luke 3:22](#) puts it like this: *And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him*. In this way the Spirit was present and “flew down” on Jesus **like a dove**.
- **A voice came from heaven**: It’s rare in the Bible when we read that God speaks audibly from heaven, but this is one of those glorious occasions.
- **You are My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased**: What could be more glorious than to have God the Father praise and affirm you publicly?

Vs. 12

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness: After the dramatic appearance of the Holy Spirit at His baptism, the *work* of the Spirit in Jesus was to *lead* Him or *drive* Him **into the wilderness**.

The story of Jesus being in the wilderness is one that many people, can relate to. It can be related to in many ways.

The wilderness is a Place of Dependency:

1. A Place where God is everything you need...
2. In the Wilderness God is your:
 - Provider
 - Protection
 - Companion

Psalm 23:1-4

A psalm of David.

1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

3 he restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name’s sake.

4 Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

The Wilderness is a place of Solitude:

Solitude: The state of being alone.

Have you ever felt alone in your Faith?
Have you ever felt put out because of your Devotion to God?

I have good news for you...
You are never alone in those moments...
You will find the Lord is very present with you in those moments...

Matthew 5:11

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1 Peter 2

12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

19 For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

1 Peter 3

14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

The Wilderness is a Transition Point

- Sandwiched in between Jesus' Baptism and His Ministry was a Wilderness...
- What takes place in the wilderness is important...

Vs. 13 and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan.

Tempted: To try, make trial of, test. To try whether a thing can be done

Trial: *dokimion*/do-ke'-me-on

1) the proving

2) that by which something is tried or proved, a test

3) a crucible or furnace for smelting

smelting: to melt or fuse often with an accompanying chemical change usually to separate the metal

Jesus was tested for 40 days/ Israel was tested for 40 years...

What took Jesus 40 days in the wilderness took Israel 40 years in the desert.

Story: Krispy Kreme Factory

- There is a progression to God's plan. (Stages of a Baby)
- God has a plan in everything we go through.
- This too shall pass.
- Stay the Course. (Don't jump off the conveyor belt that God has you on.)

Malachi 3:3 says: 'He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.'

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God..

One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining Silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a spot; then she thought again about the verse that says: ' He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.'

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time.

The man answered that yes, **he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.**

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, 'How do you know when the silver is fully refined?'

He smiled at her and answered, ' **Oh, that's easy -- when I can see my reflection in it.**'

Hebrews 13:5

“Never will I **leave you**; never will I forsake you.”

Matthew 28:20

And surely I **am with you** always, to the very end of the age.”