

Sermon Notes

Big Idea: In preparation to celebrate the birth of our Savior, over the next several weeks until Christmas we will discover how Jesus is "God with us" on the mountain, in the valley, in the wilderness, and in the storm. Join us for "Immanuel - God With Us."

Matthew 1:22-23 (ESV)

No matter what you're going through, you can trust that God is with you.

We see the wilderness as a place of desolation and frustration, God sees it as the place of preparation and formation.

Exodus 13:17-18 (ESV)

Three Temptations of the Wilderness:

- We try to escape.
- We try to take a short cut.
- We question God's goodness.

Numbers 14:1-4 (ESV)
Numbers 14:39-45 (ESV)
Exodus 14:11-12 (ESV)

Exodus 15:24-25; 16:2-3; 17:2-3 (ESV)

Matthew 4:1-2; 11; 14 (ESV)

The Wilderness can become a place of:

- His Provision
- Our Preparation
- His Presence

Discussion Questions

- 1) What impacted you the most from this week's message? Encouraged you? Challenged you?
- 2) Have you ever found yourself in a wilderness season, and attempted to 'escape' or 'take a short cut' in your own strength? Explain.
- 3) Have you ever had a season where you've questioned God's goodness? Explain
- 4) How has God used a wilderness season in your life to prepare you for the next seasons?
- 5) Who do you know that is in a wilderness season and could use some encouragement? What's your next step to help them out?