

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning 11-20-22
Christianity 101 – Message 27 Part 2
The Wilderness – Correction, Growth or Both? Part 2

1. Introduction:
 - a. Taking a Look Back:
 - 1) This is a detour for Israel I am sure they were not anticipating.
 - 2) The Israelites were DISTRACTED by people, things and ideas.
 - 3) There are examples in the Word of others who spent time in the wilderness.
 - 4) I Corinthians 10:11 – “they are written for our admonition:
 - a) “admonition” – to fit us for right action by good instruction.
 - b. Taking a Look Ahead:
 - 1) Does God still use the wilderness today?
 - a) Does that thought scare you? Does it anger you?
 - b) What is your Purpose as a Christian?
2. What is My Purpose?
 - a. Glory and Fellowship:
 - 1) Genesis 1:26 – Did God really have a plan when He created you?
 - a) Consider how He made us in His image –
 - 2) Man was created for God’s glory thus to bring glory to God and for fellowship with God.
 - 3) How would Israel learn especially since the fall of man has corrupted and blinded them to truth? Remove Distractions to Reveal Truth? Why?
 - b. The fall of man has corrupted and blinded many from seeing this: Genesis 3
 - 1) The natural man has a purpose: Ephesians 2:1-3
 - a) If you look closely, you can see – their purpose in life is centered in SELF.
 - b) Verse 1 –
 - c) Verse 2 –
 - d) Verse 3 – “lived and conducted in the passions of the flesh”; “obeying the impulses of the flesh and the thoughts of the mind.” Amplified Version.
 - e) The natural man follows after the desires of his flesh in the world where according to I John 2:16 are –
 - 2) The Believer has a Purpose:
 - a) God created us for His glory and when He created us, He created us in such a way that we would be able to have fellowship with Him.
 - b) I Corinthians 6:19-20 –
3. The Way of Faith in the Wilderness: I Peter 1:6-8; Matthew 4:1-11
 - a. The Truth of the wilderness:
 - 1) Can be used to correct or to test a believer’s walk of faith.
 - 2) I Peter 1:6-8:
 - a) Verse 3-5 –
 - b) Verse 6 – “if need be” – either for correction or for growth in faith.
 - c) Verse 7 – My prompt some questions –
 - b. The Trust in the wilderness: Matthew 4:1-11
 - 1) Jesus reveals the simplicity of abiding, of walking in the Spirit right here where the battle was intense and his physical strength at a low point.

- 2) Surrender to the Holy Spirit:
 - a) The work of the Spirit –
 - b) When God's plan and my agenda collide, then –
 - c) Surrender reflects the heart attitude toward the Lord.
- 3) Responding with the Word: Are you ready and equipped for this?
 - a) Psalms 119:9-11 –
- c. Today's Take Away:
 - 1) The wilderness is real!