LONELY PLACES - Part 3

Jesus Walked in Lonely Places

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Part of Lonely Places March 27, 2021

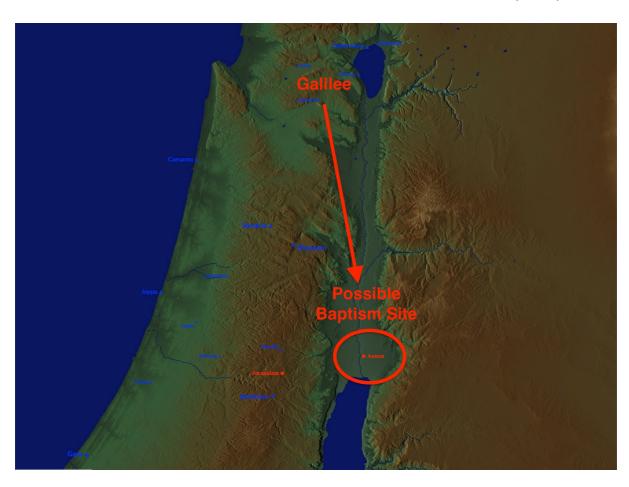
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Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John [the Baptist], to be baptized by him.

-Matthew 3:13 (ESV)



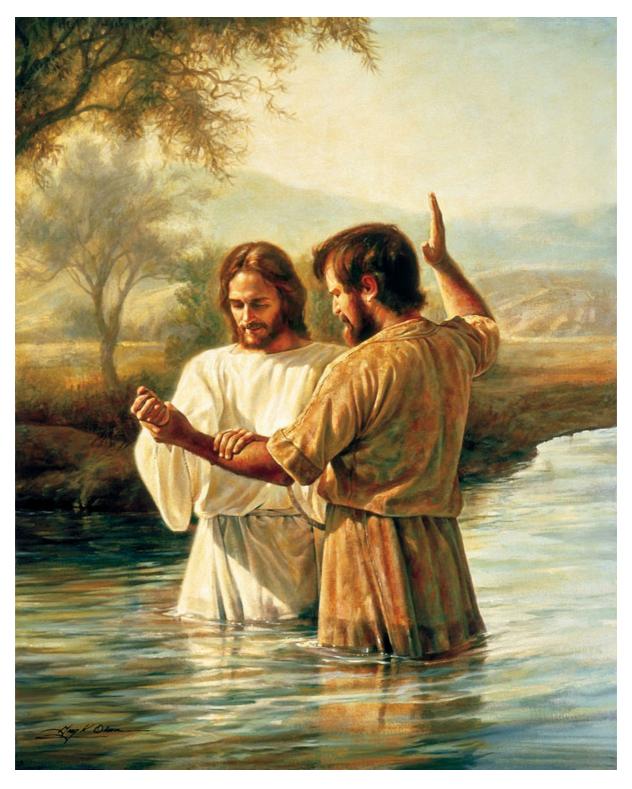


John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he consented.

-Matthew 3:14-15 (ESV)

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;

—Matthew 3:16 (ESV)



...and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'

-Matthew 3:17 (ESV)

We see a great affirmation, clearly from ____, about Jesus.

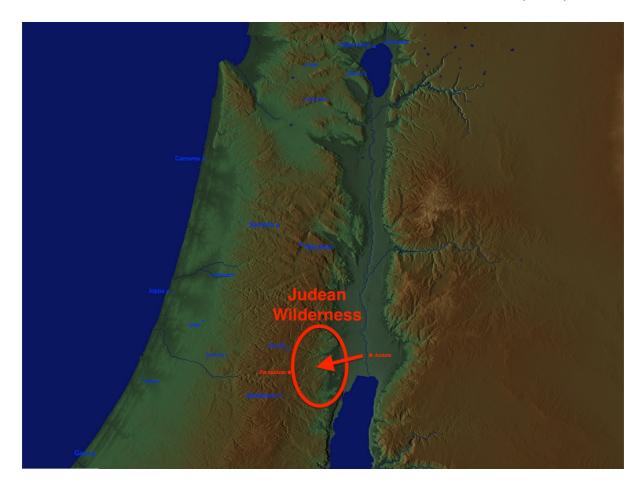
Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him....

—Isaiah 42:1 (ESV)

God's affirmation here points to ____ as both the Messiah, in the line of David, the very Son of God, yet also representative of the people as the Suffering Servant who will give his life for their sake.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

—Matthew 4:1-2 (ESV)











Lonely places are places of ____, where we've either removed ourselves or been removed from the influences of other people who care about us.

Matthew tells us Jesus was led here "by the Spirit" for a

time of .	time of .
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When we've gone through a ____ in our life, especially a spiritual ____, it's not unusual for it to be followed by a time of trial and testing.

'And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.'

—Deuteronomy 6:10-13 (ESV)

Good times, wealth, big wins are all times, God says, when we're easily tempted to ____ God's provision and take ____ for the outcome ourselves.

Satan comes to Jesus with three different temptations that are also ____.

And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,'" and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."'

—Matthew 4:3-7 (ESV)

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and

showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."'

-*Matthew 4:8-10 (ESV)*

Jesus' response in all three cases is of the same type - he says, "'It is written,'" and then quotes ____.

We have to know Scripture, but we also have to use it ____.

To guard against the misuse of Scripture, we need to not only be studying Scripture ourselves but also be engaged with Scripture with other ____ who can help us correctly interpret and use God's Word in our lives.

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

—*Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)*

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.... and take... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

—Ephesians 6:13, 17 (ESV)

When we do depend on God and His resources and Word, the enemy loses his ___ in our lives.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

—James 4:7 (ESV)

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

—Matthew 4:11 (ESV)

And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

A SUMMARY:

- 1. We are ____ both when we've faced a setback and when we're coming off a high moment in our lives.
- 2. The Spirit will sometimes ____ us to a lonely place where we will be tested as we go through those experiences.
- 3. Satan loves to corrupt those testing times by ____ us when we find ourselves in vulnerable, weakened settings.
- 4. Jesus always trusted ____ to help him overcome Satan's temptations.
- 5. God took care of Jesus in that lonely place as he was ____ to God, and He'll take care of us, too.

There are many, many folks who are lonely and lost, and maybe God is offering us this ____ as a first step to start helping them walk through this lonely place and find His peace and love, which passes all understanding.

Next Week: Easter!

