

Purpose in the Desert

Mark 1:12-15

Rich O'Toole

09/18/22

I. Satan tempts Jesus. Mark 1:12-13

"The same Spirit that came on Jesus at His baptism now "impelled" or drove Him into the wilderness for _____." (Sydney H. T. Page)

- This does not mean that Jesus was _____ unwillingly into the wilderness; but He willingly went where the Spirit led Him.

"Thrust into the wilderness, we are not _____ there but led by the Spirit to learn the lessons that only the desert can teach us." (Spangler)

II. John imprisoned. Mark 1:14a

John was arrested because Herod _____ it following John's criticism of Herod's marriage to his brother's wife, Herodias.

- The thanks John the Baptist received for being obedient to the Lord, was to be _____. If we fail to understand God has a plan during trials and desert experiences, it can ship wreck our faith.
 1. The Lord is _____.
 2. The Lord is _____ to His promises.

III. Kingdom purposes. Mark 1:14b-15

1. **The _____ is fulfilled.** Galatians 4:4-5
2. **The Kingdom of God is at hand.** Isaiah 42:1-4
3. _____. 1 John 1:9-10
4. **And _____ in the gospel.**

Belief is not passive; if you truly _____ in something, you will act on it! Biblical belief is a commitment to the person of Jesus; because He is, who He said He is and you agree to follow Him.

IV. Conclusion.

- The Lord allows trials in our lives to _____ us spiritually.

In **Genesis 22** the Lord told Abraham to offer up his son Isaac; this was not so much a test to _____ faith (God knows the future), as it was a test that would show Abraham he had faith.

- The Lord allows trials in our lives to _____ us.
- The Lord allows trials in our lives to _____ Himself faithful.

Romans 8:28

- The Lord's purpose for us during trials is to _____ us into the image of Jesus Christ. **Romans 8:29**

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Read **Mark 1:12-13**. What does it mean that "**the Spirit drove him into the wilderness**"? Did Jesus enter the desert willingly? **1 John 3:8, Philippians 2:5-8, John 10:17-18, Galatians 2:20**
2. Why was Jesus tempted? How did the Father care for the Son during the desert experience? **1 John 3:8, Psalm 91:9-11, Hebrews 1:14, Hebrews 4:16, Hebrews 13:5**
3. Read **Mark 1:14a** and **Matthew 14:1-12**. Why was John the Baptist imprisoned? Was this a just reason? What was the blessing John received for obediently preaching the Kingdom of God? As believers, what two things from point II. of the sermon note sheet must we remember when going through trials? **Isaiah 55:9, Revelation 12:11, Genesis 50:20**
4. Read **Mark 1:14b-15**. What two proclamations and two directives did Jesus make? Discuss the four points in point III. of the sermon note sheet. Discuss the meaning of the words; **repent** and **believe**. **Galatians 4:4-5, Isaiah 42:1-4, 1 John 1:9-10, Romans 10:9-10**
5. Discuss each of the points of the conclusion of the sermon. **Genesis 22:1-14, Romans 8:28-29**