

Studies in Matthew

Wilderness Training (Part Two)

Scripture Text

Matthew 4:1-4



Wilderness Training

■ **Expect it --**

– *Joseph* *David*



■ **Embrace it --**

- *A promotion not a demotion (the Exodus)*
- *Wilderness by design vs default*
- *God uses the Devil's plans to grow us and to defeat the enemy*
- *God only allows tests we will be able to pass (1 Cor 10:13)*

Wilderness Training

- ***Endure it with joy --***
 - *Power/anointing follow (Luke 4:14)*
 - *Caring ministry results (2 Cor. 1:5)*
 - *Maturity is the fruit (James 1:2-4)*
 - *Great reward in Heaven (Matt 5:12)*



The Focus of the Tests

- (v3) The key word here is “if”
- Wilderness tests target our identity.
 - Satan want’s us to forget God’s Word
 - Satan wants us to doubt our status
- In every test we find a challenge to:
 - Prove
 - Perform
 - Produce



The Content of the Tests

- The first test deals with trust and dependence.
- Sin is about “I” – me relying on myself. Faith is trusting God. Jesus temptation to sin was greater than any of us.
- Will I have faith that God will truly provide? (Phil 4:19)



***And my God shall supply all your needs
according to His riches in glory by Christ
Jesus. Phil 4:19***

***I have been young, and now am old;
Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken,
Nor his descendants begging bread.***

Ps 37:25

- The provision test is essential for the development of a strong faith. Every true child of God will be challenged on this issue.
- Usually this is a financial test of our faith, accountability, integrity.
 - Will I do what is right even if it costs me my job?
 - Will I trust God in the lean times or develop a “ministry of hints?”
 - Will I be faithful in my giving even in sparse times? (Mal. 3:8-11)



“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your lap. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” (Luke 6:38)



- Passing the test of dependence on God for provision is absolutely essential to walk in freedom and peace with God.
- It was the test Adam and Eve failed.
- It is at the root of all sins of the flesh.

For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. (1 John 2:16-17)

The Good News

■ Jesus passed the test!

■ His victory is ours!

■ We get to take the test again!

■ His methods are available to us!

– Hang onto God's promises

– Be filled with His Spirit

