

Life Group Discussion

Based on: Sunday, March 27, 2022

Sermon Title: Wilderness-Living After God's Own Heart

Sermon Series: After God's Own Heart

Sermon Passage: 1 Samuel 23:29-24:7 | Mark 1:12-13 |

APPETIZER:

Prayer: Take a moment just to have everyone settle. Have a moment of silence and then ask the Holy Spirit to bring his presence into the discussion, bring comfort to our hearts, and encouragement to our lives.

Scripture: Have someone read 1 Samuel 23:29-24:7. Then have someone read Mark 1:12-13.

Both David and Jesus were sent off into the Desert. In the Greek, the word for "send" actually means "to drive out". You get the sense from Mark 1 that Jesus was pushed out into the wilderness.

Question: What are the things you like about the back country, or going into nature (camping, hiking, fishing, etc). What are some things you don't like about the back country?

In the sermon, Jeff mentioned that the wilderness can be both beautiful and dangerous. Do you agree?

Discussion: The theme of wilderness doesn't just have to do with physically being out in nature. Wilderness, in the Bible, is seen as a time of learning and growth. There are many times in our lives where an event or situation takes place where we feel like we are thrown into the wilderness: a

foreign place that you have not been before.

Discussion: If people feel comfortable, have them share about a "wilderness experience" they have had in their own life.

MAIN COURSE:

In reflecting on David's life, Pastor Jeff saw that wilderness living after God's own heart brings us back to the basics. The basics include:

1. Realizing that we are not in control (but God is)
2. Sharpening our senses (to pay attention to what God is up to)
3. Testing our resolve (are we committed to our faith even in wild circumstances?)

Question: How can realizing that we're not in control strengthen our faith? (Jeff suggested that it helps us simplify our concerns—do you agree?)

Question: In what ways do tough experiences sharpen our senses? What questions have you asked yourself during a wilderness experience that you never thought you would ask yourself? Why is it good to allow space for these questions?

Question: In the Bible, a wilderness experience often tested the resolve of people of faith: Would Moses and the people of Israel trust in Yahweh, or would they trust in idols? Would David trust in God or in the advice of his men? Would Jesus accomplish his mission in God's way or in Satan's way? How does/how did your wilderness experience test your resolve when it comes to your faith?

DESSERT: What is Jesus asking you to do about your wilderness experience?

Take some time in silence to ask the Holy Spirit to recall ways in which you need to give up control of your situation to Jesus, or sharpen your senses to God's voice, or strengthen your resolve to commit to the faith? Commit to responding to the voice of God in your life in all of your circumstances.

After a bit of time to allow your small group to do this, close in prayer, asking God to show himself in our lives, even in the wilderness experiences.