

Sunday, January 24, 2021 - "Remarkable - Week 2: Into the Wilderness" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Mark 1:1-13, Malachi 3:1, Malachi 4:5, Isaiah 40:3, Hosea 2:14-15

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Mark 1:1-13 - The prologue of all of Mark and loaded with Theology
 - We see behind the scenes into the spiritual realm
 - Spirit descending is a private exchange between God the father and Jesus
- Mark mentions the Holy Spirit
 - The Spirit isn't often identified throughout the rest of the book
 - But this intro highlights Jesus being lead and empowered by the Spirit from the beginning
- John the Baptist
 - God is a promise keeping God
 - All four gospels highlight John the Baptist as a fulfillment of prophecy
 - Malachi 3:1, Malachi 4:5, Isaiah 40:3
 - Mark makes a punctuation error...we are called into the wilderness to meet with God
- "Encounter awaits in the wilderness" - Doug Kempton
- What is the wilderness?
 - Leaving the comfort of the routine and the safe
 - Sometimes its actually the wilderness
 - It's when busyness is stripped away
 - It can be a physical place or season/experience (can be literal or figurative)
- The wilderness is where God does some of his best work
 - All throughout scripture
 - Jesus got away to remote places to encounter God throughout his ministry
 - Sometimes a person chooses the wilderness and other times it is forced upon them
- 2 wilderness experiences in the prologue of Mark
 - People coming to be baptized by John
 - Prepared for the message of Jesus
 - An encounter with God
 - Jesus' personal encounter with God
 - Father blessing Jesus
 - The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness (forced him)
- Jesus has a profound encounter in the wilderness
 - Jesus does what Adam and what Israel couldn't do (stood up to Satan and temptation)
 - Monumental day in the cosmos
 - Satan on notice
 - A New day for God and humanity
- Do you need to get away to the wilderness to allow the Spirit of God to speak to you?

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. Have you ever encountered God in the physical wilderness? What was it like? What did He say?
2. How has the Spirit of God met you and spoken to you in a metaphorical or figurative wilderness in the past?
3. Describe a profound encounter that you had with God
4. When was a time you felt like you had the wilderness forced upon you? What did you learn?
5. How have you seen the Holy Spirit lead and empower you? What did it look and feel like?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Mark 16 Tues: Mark 1 Wed: Mark 2 Thurs: Mark 3 Fri: Mark 4

Songs from the weekend: [Everlasting God - *William Murphy*] - [Do It Again - *Elevation Worship*] - [Yes and Amen - *Housefires*] - [How Great Thou Art]