



Dr. Montia Setzler, Lead Pastor
September 18, 2022

The Wilderness: Finding God in Your Difficult Season

Discovering Purpose in the Wilderness

Mark 1:4–8 (HCSB)

John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were flocking to him, and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. ⁶ John wore a camel-hair garment with a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He was preaching: “Someone more powerful than I will come after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of His sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

John 1:6–8 (HCSB)

There was a man named John who was sent from God. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

1. THE WILDERNESS WAS THE BACKDROP FOR THE _____ OF THE FIRST PROPHET TO SPEAK IN 400 YEARS vv Mark 1:6

- John’s radical _____ was like that of Elijah.

2 Kings 1:8 (HCSB)

They replied, “A hairy man with a leather belt around his waist.” He said, “It’s Elijah the Tishbite.”

- The messenger sent from God lived the austere lifestyle _____ with other prophets.
- John came to prepare the way for Jesus.

Malachi 3:1 (HCSB)

“See, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. Then the Lord you seek will suddenly come to His temple, the Messenger of the covenant you desire - see, He is coming,” says the Lord of Hosts.

Isaiah 40:3 (HCSB)

A voice of one crying out: Prepare the way of the Lord in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert.

2. GOD USED THE WILDERNESS TO _____ HIS PROPHET FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT

- The wilderness prepared John for the role God had for him.
- Sometimes the isolation of the wilderness can bring _____ of thought.
- God can use your difficult season to clearly _____ to you.

3. JOHN THE BAPTIST’S WHOLE MESSAGE IN THE WILDERNESS WAS TO CALL SINNERS TO _____

- The message was one of _____ for the Messiah.
- The message was one of repentance from sin.
- The message was to _____ that Jesus was the Light.

The Next Step:

Our wilderness experience can be preparing us for what God has next. Watch and pray.