

Sunday 18th November
Speaker: Martin Armstrong



To Be A Transforming
Community Committed
to Jesus Christ

Battle in the Wilderness Luke 4:1-13

1. After Jesus was baptised, the Holy Spirit came upon him and he had a battle with the Satan in the wilderness. After Elijah had defeated the Prophets of Baal, he was threatened by Queen Jezebel and ran off to hide in the wilderness. Name some other biblical characters who encountered extreme spiritual warfare after a special encounter with God.
2. The Greek says that Jesus had to pass through a wilderness. Sometimes we have to pass through a wilderness experience to get to where we're going. During these times we can feel out of touch with God, tired and alone. Can you share about a period like this in your life?
3. The wilderness is God's classroom for preparation for what lies ahead. Satan wants us to spend hours arguing about issues that have little relevance to our call to serve Jesus in this world. He'll try to cause resentment and division and keep us from power & unity in the Holy Spirit. Discuss.
4. The devil said to Jesus in Luke 4:3 "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Satan was wanting Jesus to doubt what He'd heard from God. He tempted Jesus to overcome His hunger by using His divine power for himself. He'll say to us "Don't waste your time on the needs of those around you, just focus on number one" Most real promptings by the Holy Spirit are to mobilize us to reach out to a dying world. Discuss.
5. Jesus was led into the wilderness: Christians like to use the phrase "I was led..." but we can use it to justify our own decisions "I felt led to purchase a new car." What have you been "led to do" which was really self-centred ambition?
6. In Luke 4:5-8 Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of the world, but without him having to endure the pain of the cross. The temptation here is to follow the easy pathway, to take a short-cut. Many of the things God does in our lives are by a process involving gradual change over time. Discuss.
7. We can't become fruitful until we have put down roots. Putting down roots involves prayer, repentance, spiritual discipline, relationship building, obedience, learning from our mistakes, and continuously offering ourselves to God in every decision we make. Are you putting down roots?
8. Jesus used two weapons to secure, his victory over this temptation. He stood firmly on the Scriptures and He operated in the power of the Holy Spirit. He repeated back to Satan the phrase, "It is written." What are some key verses of scripture that you can use when Satan tempts you?
9. When the devil had finished tempting Jesus he 'left him until an opportune time (Lu 4:13). Satan will attack us when he feels that we're the most vulnerable. When are you most vulnerable?

Pray for each other.

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