

**\*\*SERMON NOTES\*\***

Matthew 4:1-11 - The Wilderness - A Testing Place

NOTE: Jesus was led by the \_\_\_\_\_ to the wilderness. The OT writers had a name for this particular wilderness - in English the word means "The devastation". Ever been there??

I. A \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE

II. A \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE The questions seem to have no answers.

III. A PLACE OF \_\_\_\_\_

At the core of Jesus' temptation was \_\_\_\_\_ in God...and so it is with us.

I John 2:16 breaks temptation down into 3 categories:

lust (desire) of the flesh - desire to \_\_\_\_\_ things, to satisfy our appetites

lust (desire) of the eyes - desire to obtain things - \_\_\_\_\_

pride of life - desire to \_\_\_\_\_ things - to achieve importance and prominence

Matt. 4:2,3 - desire of the flesh - \_\_\_\_\_ This is the temptation to take \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives rather than stand on principle.

Matt. 4:6,7 - desire of the eyes - why not just come down out of the sky? This is the temptation to go after the "one \_\_\_\_\_", rather than be patiently persistent and faithful to God.

Matt. 4:8-10 - desire to obtain things - This is the temptation to go after what we want, regardless.

To overcome temptation, Jesus used the same Resource we have – the \_\_\_\_\_!  
He didn't use His supernatural power. He quoted the Word!! YOU can do that!!

If we are going to successfully pass the tests of the wilderness, we must turn it into

IV. A PLACE OF \_\_\_\_\_

After this wilderness experience, the Bible often says that Jesus often went to a desert/solitary place:

Matt. 14:13 - after He heard of John the Baptist's death, He withdrew to a solitary place

Mark 6:31 - "come with me to a quiet (desert) place and get some rest"

Luke 4:42 - Jesus went out to a solitary place

The wilderness is a place of testing, but it can also be a place of reaffirming our faith; of reconnecting with our Father; of recommitment to our ministry.

Mark 1:13 - "He was with the wild animals, and angels attended Him."

Our tendency is to focus on the wild animals - why not change your focus, with God's help, to the positive lessons of the wilderness? Why not ask Him to allow you to see the \_\_\_\_\_?

Are you in the wilderness? Claim this promise: Ps. 91:11 - "He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways."

