



March 9, 2025

**SERMON SERIES: The Wilderness
The Invitation of Lent**

Scripture: Mark 1:9-13

Big Idea: As we enter into the story of Jesus in the wilderness, you are invited to relationship, invited to return, and invited to renewal.

Pastoral Prayer for this Message:

Father, thank you for sending Jesus to model a life of obedience in his life, to pay the price for our sins in his death, and to gain victory over death in his resurrection. Jesus, thank you for making relationship to the Father possible because of who you are and what you've done on our behalf. Remind us of our identity in you as individuals and as your people. Give us the humility and courage to live in the reality of who you say we are. Where we have wandered, we turn back to you. We confess the ways we have tried to find our identity outside of who you say we are. We receive your forgiveness as we return to you. As we return to you, may we experience renewal in our innermost beings that works its way outward, that we may be instruments of your grace, peace and love to those around us. Amen.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What, if any, has been your experience with the season of lent prior to this year? Swap some stories with one another.
2. In Mark 1:10, what are the implications of Jesus seeing heaven torn open and the Spirit descending on him?
3. In what ways have you allowed your identity to be defined in the past?
4. Using your own words, how would Jesus define your identity? How does what He says about you change your day-to-day life?
5. What do you need to give up/repent of/confess in order to return to your true identity in Christ?
6. Looking back at past times where you've been in a more acute "wilderness" experience, what work did God do in your life?

7. How have you seen God work in wilderness experiences in the past to prepare you for something that comes later?
8. What spiritual practices/rhythms might you feel compelled to engage in as an individual or as a life group to re-orient yourself to Jesus in the weeks leading up to Easter?