



**March 23, 2025**

### **THE WILDERNESS: WEEK 3 A TIME FOR DEPENDANCE**

**Scripture:** Mark 1:9-12, Hebrews 4:14-16

**Big Idea:** No one chooses the wilderness, and no one leaves the wilderness unchanged, but we can choose how we move through it. Because of Jesus — our Great High Priest — our wilderness wanderings can be places of His presence, His passion and His promises.

**The Challenge:** How do you respond to the wilderness wanderings in your life? Do you cling to Jesus, or try to get by on your own gifts and strengths? Because of who Jesus is, let's learn to approach him with boldness and vulnerability, surrendering our wills to Him, and leaning on Him with trust and dependance.

**Pastoral Prayer for this Message:** My prayer is that we would be a people who cling to Jesus through our wilderness wanderings, surrendering our wills to Him, and approaching him with boldness to receive mercy and grace.

#### **Questions for Discussion:**

#### **Intro Questions:**

Scripture is loaded with stories of people wandering in the wilderness. We see this in the Israelites who found themselves wandering for 40 years — stuck between the baptism waters of the Red Sea and the Promised Land. In that same way, Hebrews is written to a people during their own wilderness wandering. They are facing extreme suffering, and they are in danger of giving up.

Spiritually speaking, we will all find ourselves wandering in the wilderness. Are you in a season of wilderness now, or have you been there before?

No one chooses the wilderness, and no one leaves the wilderness unchanged, but we can choose how we respond to it. The Israelites wanted to go back to Egypt. How have you responded in your own wilderness?

#### **A Place of His Presence:**

The author of Hebrews refers to Jesus as our Great High Priest, meaning he's made the presence of God available to us everywhere and anywhere. How have you experienced the presence of God in your own wilderness wanderings?

What does it look like for you to “hold fast to the faith you profess” through your own wilderness season?

### **A Place of His Passion:**

Jesus is no ordinary priest. He can empathize with us in our weakness because he has been tempted in every way, just as we are. I like to say that it's as if we have a Great High Priest who has wilderness sand on the soles of his feet. What does this mean for you as you wander the wilderness?

Jesus has been tempted in every way – and yet without sin. What does this mean for you?

### **A Place of His Promise:**

The author of Hebrews says – because of who Jesus is – let us approach the throne of grace with boldness. What does this mean to you, and what does it look like in your life? What keeps you from doing so?

When we approach God in the middle of your wilderness he promises many things, including love and redemption. He repurposes our pain and uses both the good and bad for our own renewal. How have you experienced this in your life?

The final thing He promises is victory. He doesn't just dignify our wilderness wanderings but promises to eventually triumph over them. How does this give you hope in the middle of whatever it is you are facing.