

- I. ONE THING—The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

II. MEDITATION

A. Review your class notes from Tuesday.

- Take some time to think about the main ideas of the lesson. Find the audio message on our website under the Resources tab. ([www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com](http://www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com)).
- Which of the scriptures referenced were particularly meaningful to you? Write out those verses below and spend some time studying them this week.

B. Rewrite your One Thing into a prayer, expressing your heart's desire for God to make this truth become your experience.

C. Sing about what you're learning. It's helpful in connecting emotionally to the truth.

- Listen to the songs from this week's playlist:  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBL8waErHIN73qsEDZ2QNF0\\_rOtiH3wIN](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBL8waErHIN73qsEDZ2QNF0_rOtiH3wIN)
- Enjoy this year's songs on Spotify or on our DDD You Tube channel (see handout):  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBL8waErHIN6ncxj-5uV0AXyVObmZeALl>

### III. PRINCIPLES

These principles will help you understand God's purposes for your Wilderness areas:

#### A. MORE WILDERNESS PURPOSES

- Scripture shows us that The Wilderness is a special time of opportunity that has many beneficial purposes in the life of every child of God, including His Son Jesus!
- Jesus provides us with another biblical account of The Wilderness done well!
- Because our Savior has experienced The Wilderness firsthand, He can help us negotiate the terrain: Heb 4:15 NLT-- This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.
- One might argue that His specific tests differed from ours, but every temptation falls into one of 3 categories: 1 Jn 2:15 NLT-- For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world
- The sources of our temptation are the world, our fleshly desires, and our enemy the devil. God is never the author of temptation: Jm 1:13 NLT-- Remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else.
- God, however, will use The Wilderness to strengthen us against temptation!

Insights:

#### B. SPIRIT-LED WILDERNESS

- Jesus, immediately after His public baptism (Lk 3:21-22), began a 40-day stay in The Wilderness: Lk 4:1-2-- Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for 40 days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.
- Since Jesus was without sin, He did not receive the baptism of repentance by John the Baptist. His baptism signified setting aside His own human desires for God's will.
- The Father then affirmed Jesus' identity as His Beloved Son. The Holy Spirit came upon Him and led Him into The Wilderness.
- Many scholars believe that this was a Time Out for communion with the Father. Jesus was preparing to begin His ministry with 40 days of prayer and fasting.
- "(God) created Adam and Israel, and He gave them their missions in which they ultimately failed. He also gave Jesus His mission, driving Him into the wilderness, where He stood against all temptation for the sake of our salvation." (Ligonier.org)
- Each child of God (COG) has a calling that is unique and unable to be filled by anyone else. Temptations are meant to distract us away from God's plan.
- Satan tried to divert Jesus from the path of obedience in this Spirit-led Wilderness just as he did with the Hebrews when God led them there after the Red Sea.

- However the devil's temptations were not effective this time! In fact, this plan backfired and God's purpose for The Wilderness prevailed: Lk 4:14 AMP-- Then Jesus went back full of *and* under the power of the [Holy] Spirit into Galilee, and the fame of Him spread through the whole region round about.
- Jesus models the mindsets we need for our temptations during Wilderness times.  
Insights:

### C. PURPOSE OF PREPARATION

- Jesus took on the nature of man and set aside His privileges as God. (Phil 2:7) Therefore, He faced temptation as we do, depending on God's Spirit and His Word.
- By overcoming these temptations, Jesus grew stronger in Kingdom thinking and in His resolve to remain true to His Father's pathway.
- Take a look at the tactics used by Satan in The Wilderness and how they prepared Jesus for His future calling:
  1. Life of Sacrifice
    - Lk 4:3-4-- The devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' "
    - Satan's ploy was to introduce doubts and questions. In essence he was saying, "If you are God's Son, why are you suffering?"
    - The devil tried to convince Jesus that things didn't have to be so hard. There was an easier way than the way God had prescribed.
    - Jesus had already determined in His heart that He was going to live out God's will God's way even when things got difficult: Jn 6: 38-- For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.
    - Wilderness times tempt us to look for a way out of the pain. Jesus knew that God's divinely appointed path often includes struggle and suffering.
    - The Wilderness provides us with the opportunity to live from the inside out and access a place of supernatural nourishment: Jn 4:34 MSG-- Jesus said, "The food that keeps me going is that I do the will of the One who sent me, finishing the work he started.

Insights:

## 2. Proper Use of Authority

- Lk 4:5-8-- Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "
- The gist of this temptation was to divert Jesus from His mission of serving others to one of ruling over other them.
- Our Savior knew His assignment: Mk 10:44-46 JBP-- "You know that the so-called rulers in the heathen world lord it over them, and their great men have absolute power. But it must not be so among you. No, whoever among you wants to be great must become the servant of you all, and if he wants to be first among you he must be the slave of all men! For the Son of Man himself has not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life to set many others free."
- "Satan's offer, like all his offers, was a mixed bag of truth and error. Jesus later calls Satan 'the ruler of this world.' (Jn 12:31, 14:30, 16:11) Paul calls him 'The god of this world.' (2 Cor 4:4) But the Bible is also clear, and Satan cleverly alludes to it even here, that God alone sets up kings and grants authority to whomever He wills. (Dan 4:17, 25) Satan's authority is at best delegated and temporary." (Steven J. Cole)
- Jesus wasn't deceived by this promise of power. He was well aware of the consequences that would come if He gained authority via Satan's shortcut.
- The enemy was seeking to rob Jesus of communion with the Father and His true destiny in this world. That's his goal for us, too!
- God leads us into The Wilderness so that we will know our need of Him and His divine power: Jn 15:5-- As you live in union with me as your source, fruitfulness will stream from within you—but when you live separated from me you are powerless.
- The Wilderness prepares us for a life of effective service in the Kingdom as we imitate Jesus: Jn 20:21-22 NLT-- He said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

### Insights:

## 3. Kingdom Success

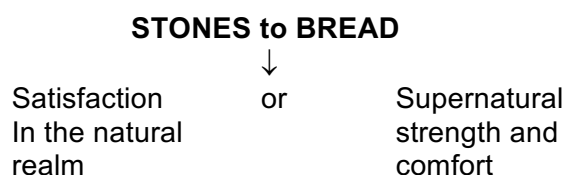
- Lk 4:9-12-- Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you,' and, 'In *their* hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.' "

- The devil is always luring us away from a heart of trust to a place of doubt and unbelief. He wanted Jesus to question God’s way of accomplishing this mission: ~“Do You really believe that all this suffering is necessary to redeem fallen man?”
  - Jesus did not take the bait. He rejected the doubt and refused to test God for He had experienced His supernatural power and provision in The Wilderness!
  - That kind of faith is a byproduct of a heart wholly committed to following God’s pathway. Half-hearted followers are ill equipped for the heat of temptation: Heb 11:6 NLT-- It is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.
  - This was perfect practice for Jesus’ ultimate test at the crucifixion: Mt 27:40-- If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.
  - Satan’s theology almost always includes skipping out on any hardship and questioning the heart of God. He applies God’s Word in presumptive ways.
  - It is gratifying to see that God soon made good on the promise of supernatural protection from Ps 91:11-12 that Satan used to tempt Jesus: Lk 4:28-30--So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.
- Jesus leaned on His Beloved Father in The Wilderness. God proved His faithfulness there, giving Jesus all He needed now and for the path that lay ahead.
  - In submitting to this difficult time of preparation. Jesus found that miracles began to happen and the glory of God was made manifest through His life: Lk 4:31-32 AMP-- And He descended to Capernaum, a town of Galilee, and there He continued to teach the people on the Sabbath days. And they were amazed at His teaching, for His word was with authority *and* ability *and* weight *and* power.

Insights:

**D. CHOICES IN THE WILDERNESS**

- Here’s another way to view the choices laid before Jesus in The Wilderness:



### WORLDLY KINGDOMS



Easy, more  
direct route  
to the throne

or

Give life as  
a ransom  
for many

### THROWN DOWN



Instant acclaim  
without the  
suffering

or

God's path  
taken for  
God's glory

### LEAN ON BELOVED



Lean on my  
own strength  
and wisdom

or

Promises  
fulfilled, heavenly  
provision, and rest

- This account demonstrates how we can know more of God and experience His goodness, mercy, faithfulness, and comfort in The Wilderness.
- Jesus showed us that God's Spirit and His Word are enough to sustain us. We can walk by faith and not by sight. We can know that God's promises are true.
- 2 Tim 2:13 AMP-- If we are faithless [do not believe and are untrue to Him], He remains true (faithful to His Word and His righteous character), for He cannot deny Himself.

Insights:

### III. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

- Our challenge on this journey through The Wilderness is to:
  - Stay focused on our Rock, Jesus and not on our circumstances
  - Remember His past faithfulness, knowing He'll show the next step
  - Rehearse His promises (Promised Land is ahead, He'll pour out rivers, etc.)
  - Practice His Presence to receive His rest.
- May we be so changed in God's presence in this season that this will be the testimony spoken about us: Song 8:5-- Who is this coming up from the wilderness, Leaning upon her beloved?