

40 Days in the Wilderness

(Matthew 4:1-22; Luke 4:1-13)

- Introduction:
1. Both Matthew and Luke record an incident in the life of Jesus in which he experienced 40 days of solitude and isolation.
 2. Maybe it's not until now that many of us have ever given thought to isolation.
 3. It was in this period of isolation that Jesus was challenged and made stronger.
 4. I would like for us to consider how we can use our isolation to prepare us for ministry.

I. While Isolated, Jesus Was Tempted

- A. (Matthew 4:3).
- B. If the Devil dared to even tempt the Son of God, do we think he's intimidated by us? Our reputations? Our heritage?
- C. "An idle mind is the Devil's playground."
- D. (Proverbs 4:23).
 1. (1 Kings 19:4,9) Elijah

II. While Isolated, Jesus Fasted

- A. (Matthew 4:2).
- B. Fasting was not just for O.T. Israel, it was practiced by the New Testament church.
 1. (Acts 13:2) Sending out missionaries.
 2. (Acts 14:23) Appointment of elders.
- C. While it is true there is no command to fast, there is an expectation that we would (Matthew 9:15).

III. While Isolated, Jesus Was Focused on God's Word & His Purpose

- A. Three times he quoted Scripture to answer temptation (Matthew 4:4,7,10).
- B. Open your Bibles, turn off the television, put down your phones, and listen to God.
- C. It will fill you with hope, purpose, and keep you from despair.
 1. People calling and checking on others.
 2. People praying for others.
 3. People recording Bible classes.

- Conclusion:
1. Strength doesn't come without effort.
 2. Victory doesn't come without an opponent.
 3. Use the trials of this present time to strengthen you and re-focus your life on what is important.