

*Mastering Life*  
**Living in the Wilderness**

**I. Introduction**

- A. The wilderness isn't something that should surprise us!
- B. We're getting God and life mixed up!
- C. Matthew 4:1-2 (NLT) *<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. <sup>2</sup>For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.*
- D. Matthew 3:16-17 (NLT) *<sup>16</sup>After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."*
- E. Matthew 4:1 (NLT) *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil.*
  - 1. God always does something in us when we go through a "wilderness" experience.
  - 2. When we're in the wilderness, we need to trust God's love for us more than the "wilderness" around us!
  - 3. He goes into the wilderness completely confident in Who He is!
- F. Matthew 4:3 (NLT) *During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."*
  - 1. Sometimes the very best for us comes in ways we don't understand.
  - 2. God's plan for our lives is to make us like Jesus! It's not to make our life easy!
- G. Matthew 4:4 (NLT) *But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*
  - 1. If you want to be able to survive the wilderness, you have to learn the Scriptures!
  - 2. "You live by trusting God's Word about who you are."
- H. Matthew 4:5-6 (NLT) *<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, <sup>6</sup>and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"*
- I. Psalm 91:13 (NLT) *You will trample upon lions and cobras; you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet!*
- J. Matthew 4:7 (NLT) *Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"*
- K. Deuteronomy 6:16 (NLT) *"Do not test the Lord your God as you did at Massah."*

- L. Matthew 4:8-9 (NLT) *<sup>8</sup>Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him the kingdoms of the world and all their glory. <sup>9</sup>"I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."*
- M. Matthew 4:10 (NLT) *"Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.'"*
- N. Matthew 4:11 (NLT) *Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.*
- O. Jesus would say to us today, "When you're in the wilderness:
  - 1. Remember your identity.
  - 2. Know the Scriptures!
  - 3. Don't take any short cuts!
  - 4. Don't give in to any idols."
- P. Isaiah 43:2 (NLT) *When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.*

## **II. Conclusion**