

THE SPIRIT AND THE DESERT

SEGMENT 10

SYNOPSIS

"[Jesus] was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil." Luke 4:1

On the day Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit anointed him. Immediately after this event the Holy Spirit led Jesus to the desert. The desert was a place of isolation, death and defeat but Jesus was led to the desert so that it may be forever changed. So that it may be a place of grace. The Spirit led Jesus to the desert and also protected and cared for him while he was there. The desert is a part of every Christian's life but it does not have to be a place of despair or isolation. The Holy Spirit is present to life's deserts and when we experience his presence it changes our spiritual life. The desert is no longer a place to be feared but can be a profound encounter with Jesus.

DISCUSSION

1. The Holy Spirit led Jesus and can lead us to the desert. Discuss what this might mean to you.
2. God does not tempt us, rather it is the evil one. How and when is the evil one most likely to tempt you? When do you experience victory over temptation?
3. Jesus is with us in the midst of our suffering and struggles. Discuss experiences you have had when you experienced his presence. How did this experience change your relationship with God?
4. Many people have a type of adversarial relationship with God, thinking that God is really out to get them or catch them doing something wrong. In Romans 8:31 St. Paul states that God is for us; he is not against us. Discuss this beautiful reality.

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

God is ever present; you are not alone. Take some time when and where you won't be bothered. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of a difficult time in your life. This can be hard but trust that the Holy Spirit will lead you.

Reflect on that experience. Ask God to be light and to be truth, and ask Jesus to be present to whatever the Holy Spirit reveals. Finally, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the love of God.

LED
BY THE
SPIRIT

LUKE 4:1



Image: By François Gérard

*"WE ALWAYS FIND THAT THOSE WHO WALKED CLOSEST TO CHRIST WERE THOSE WHO HAD TO BEAR THE **GREATEST TRIALS.**"*

- ST. TERESA OF AVILA -

KEY TEXTS

LUKE 3:21-22 *"After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'"*

LUKE 4:1 *"Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil."*

JAMES 1:13 *"No one experiencing temptation should say, 'I am being tempted by God;' for God is not subject to temptation to evil, and he himself tempts no one."*

ROMANS 8:31 *"What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?"*