

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Following Hard After Jesus

Title: A Season of Preparation

Text: Luke 4:1-13

Speaker: Matt Ewert

Date: March 3, 2019



WARM-UP

Share one personal "take away" from the teaching this past weekend.

DISCUSSION

Read Luke 4:1-13

- In the story of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, each scripture Jesus uses in His refutation of the devil's temptation comes from the book of Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy records Moses' final charge to the Israelites, near the conclusion of their 40 years of wandering in the desert, just before Joshua leads the Israelites into the promised land.

Read Deuteronomy 8:1-20.

Given Jesus' consistent use of Deuteronomy when engaging the devil, it seems that He understood His wilderness experience as, in some way, being connected with the previous wilderness experience of the Israelite people.

- What points of similarity, or connection, do you see between the experience of the Israelites 40 years in the wilderness and Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness?
- In what ways do those experiences diverge? What is different about them?

Looking at Deuteronomy 8:1-10, note that in verse 3 we find the quotation that Jesus used to resist Satan's temptation in the wilderness: "man does not live on bread alone."

- Looking at this quotation in its original context, what was it that God was trying to teach the people of Israel? What were they to understand and embrace?
- What were some of the practical ways in which God taught these lessons?
- In what ways do you think we might need to learn these same lessons today?

In Deuteronomy 8:11-20 we find an exhortation for the people to remember and not forget.

- What was reflection supposed to accomplish in the life of the people of Israel?
- What were the dangers that loomed if the people failed to reflect and remember?
- In what ways might we, today, be in danger of the kind of "forgetting" that the Israelites were warned against?

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DISCUSSION

Deuteronomy 8 seems to be a call to choose between dependence on God and self-reliance.

- If you were to evaluate your own life, with those positions being the two ends of a continuum, where would you place yourself today?
- What steps could you take to move further towards dependence on God.

This year Lent begins March 6 and continues through Easter. Traditionally Lent has been a season in which people engage in activities such as fasting, prayer, focused devotional habits, and almsgiving (voluntary acts of grace/charity on behalf of those in need) as practices which can help strip away that which is unnecessary in life and put us in a position to be increasingly dependent on God. It is a season of repentance — a reorienting of one's life and heart in the direction of Jesus.

- Is Lent a season you normally observe in some manner?
- If so, what practices have you engaged in, in the past?
- Are you considering observing Lent this year and, if so, what practices are you planning to engage in?

(Life Group Leaders: We would love to have feedback in regards to any questions your group has from this, or any future Life Group discussion. While we may not be able to engage in every question, we are looking to create a forum by which to carry on the conversation and engage with feedback and questions as we are able. Please use the form at <https://www.southabbotsford.com/Messages> to interact in this way.)