

OCTOBER SURPRISE: 20/20 HINDSIGHT DEVOTION AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

Matthew 4:1-4 ESV

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written, ““Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.””

Opening Thoughts:

- Everything is Father-filtered.
- How do these words help you keep the year 2020 in perspective, especially in light of the Global Pandemic that the world is experiencing? How do they encourage you specifically considering the challenges you have faced this year?
- The wilderness is a place to find perspective.
- What has guided your perspective during the year 2020? What role has prayer and prophecy held in your life as you have formed your perspective of this year? Is there anything you might change regarding your perspective after listening to this message?

Life Principle: That which has been fully tested can be fully trusted.

Three things can be seen from this passage regarding the wilderness and gaining perspective:

1) The wilderness is a place of examination (verse 1).

- Read Exodus 16:1-3. The Israelites were tested in the wilderness. What was exposed in their season of testing in the wilderness? What are some things in your own life that have been exposed during this wilderness season in 2020?
- The Israelites had left Egypt, but God exposed that Egypt was still inside of them.
- Principle: What you reward gets repeated.
- Have any unrighteous habits been exposed? Can you determine not to go back to these unrighteous habits? What righteous habits have remained? What values have been discovered?

2) The wilderness is a place of revelation (verse 3).

- “If you are the Son of God...” verse 3. Satan wanted Jesus to question his identity. He wanted to question what his Father had just said to him when he was baptized (Matthew 3:17).
- It is in the wilderness that we are reintroduced to ourselves.
- The wilderness exposes underlying conditions. Pay attention to what has been revealed in you and around you.

- What underlying conditions in our nation have been revealed in 2020? What underlying conditions in your heart (spiritual, emotional, mental) have been revealed to you?

3) The wilderness is a place of foundation (verse 4).

- Read Deuteronomy 8:1-3. The Israelites begged for food and God gave them manna, enough to sustain them every day. He let them hunger so they would know He was their only source of food.
- We are not to live by temporary pleasures, but sustained by the Word of God.
- The Word of God (written or prophetic) is the foundation that must be held to while in the wilderness. The Word of God brings clarity and prepares for the future season of revival.

Application:

- That which has been fully tested can be fully trusted.
- In hindsight the year 2020 will bring clarity. Focus and prepare for the next decade.
- Things have been shaken in the testing. Pay attention to all that has been shaken.
- Don't mark what has been lost or have failed.
- Mark the things that have proven stable. Mark what has remained.
- Read Philippians 4:8-9: think on these things.