

Outlive Your Life

Opening: Mixed Messages Vanity Plates

Text: Matthew 4: 1-11 & Mark 1: 12, 13 - Luke 4: 1-13

We've been on the theme of 40 Days linking to the Lenten Season

The number **Forty** we've discovered relates to testing - sacrifice – temptation and self denial today we're going to add another term ... **Trust**

I hope you've joined us in this 40 day journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday - If you haven't there's still time

This morning we are going to look at of Jesus' 40 day fast and temptation in the Judean wilderness just north of Jerusalem

⇒ **The question we need to ask today is why?** Why did Jesus do it – why did he subject himself to 40 days of isolation and fasting – 40 days with not food is bordering on brink of death by starvation?

The account is recorded in 3 of the 4 gospels including: Matthew, Mark and Luke – speaks to its importance

We Begin with Mark- the shortest of the 4 gospels – it is action packed, concise, straightforward and chronological – so if you want to know what order the events of Jesus' life occurred Mark is the place to start.

Mark cuts right to the chase – no messing around – opens with Jesus' baptism at the Jordan River

Read Mark 1: 12, 13

Note: The Spirit compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness to be tempted y Satan for 40 days and nights, among wild animals and angels took care of him (wilderness)

Think about that for a second –Not only is Jesus going where he won't be eating but could be eaten by wild animals!

Compelled by the Spirit – other gospels use the term **led** but Mark's gives us the sense of urgency!

We begin to get our answer from compelled – the wilderness is not a place Jesus wanted to go – it's not the place we want to go – its not desirable ... it difficult – hard !

But getting away with God – getting away from our comfort zone – allows Him to accomplish things in us that he could not in our regular routine

See Matthew 4: 1 – 11

Not surprisingly the accounts correspond – *Jesus is led by the Spirit* – God compels Jesus to go to a place where he is cut off from all other voices but His while he fasts no food for 40 days and nights Talk about tough!

Time and devotion turn into temptation and testing – it seems like a contradiction – IF we are devoting ourselves to go why do we have to be tested?

Isn't that the question we wrestle with on a regular basis? God why am I going through this-when I'm living my life for you? Are we really doing that?

When terrible things happen to people we love – we pray for them but we struggle to understand the reason for why it's happening. Why God is allowing it.

But as we endure the twists and turns of life we understand that God is up to something in our lives!

Present painful struggles ... “If I could end this, I would right now!”

In other words if I could, I'd step in ... Because of course I know better than God

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-13 (KJV)

If we're not careful to pray before you act you might find yourself trying to undo God is leveraging for good in a person's life.

The breaking down process that is puzzling to us, is really a building up process in disguise

“We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.”
- Chuck Swindoll

Why was it so crucial for Jesus to endure those 40 days? Jesus was not just casually led he was compelled

When God's call is compelling – it is usually uncomfortable and frightening – because it forces out of our comfort zone ... Go and speak to that person – step up volunteer – sign up for that class – go to this place for me ... it always involves trust on our part

Jesus faced testing and temptations when he obeyed God's leading ... so will we!

Plan A “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves bread.”

Plan B “If you are the Son of God, jump off (highest point of Temple) for the scriptures say, he will give his angels charge over you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.”

Plan C Showing Jesus all the nations – and power they represent – an offer –“I will give it all to you ... if you kneel down and worship me.” Short cut ... no need to go to the cross or come back a second time – you can have it all now without the pain!

⇒ **Back to the question** ... Why did the Holy Spirit drive Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted?

Preparation ... Jesus was about to begin his public ministry. Three short years to work but He literally changed the course of history in those three years! (His Story)

Jesus 40 day fast about preparation for the next step in his life

It was about gaining strength for the mission that was ahead of him

For understanding what is ahead of us and becoming equipped to accomplish God’s purpose.

When I went through the darkest days and trial of my life “God spoke prophetically to us ... “It was necessary for what is ahead!” It’s taken me years to understand that what was ahead was not just about me ... but others – God’s plan involving your life always involves His ministry to others!

[Laura Story](#) – **Blessings** title seems like a contradiction to what the story she tells

Max Lucado’s book, [Outlive Your Life](#),

“Some people grind through their days without lifting their eyes to look. They live and die and never ask why. But you aren’t numbered among them ... You want to live in such a way that the world will be glad you did. But how can you? How can I? Can God use us?”

If you could ask for anything in life you wanted- what would you ask for?

The answer to that question will tell who we are and where we’re headed.

Most of us are presently enduring one or several of those trials of life – How are you dealing with it?

While you’re praying for deliverance - think about what God might be up to - in the process of all this - focus on His greatness and His faithfulness not your troubles.

We outlive or lives when we live for more than just ourselves.

When it’s all said and done, we want people to be glad we were here because of the difference we made their lives

Its time to obey not ignore the voice of the Holy Spirit – to be compelled by His Spirit to be awakened from our everyday malaise - to prepare us and turn us into warriors for Him and others