

Lent:
Deepening Spiritual
Formation in the
Wilderness

A Kingdom Without
Compromise

SERMON RESOURCE

OUR LITURGY

*The Lord is here – His Spirit is with us.
Where the Spirit of the Lord is – there is Freedom!*

CONNECT

– 15 MINUTES

- Have you ever noticed that in the moments that matter most, you don't always become the person you hoped you would be?
 - "I'm going to stay calm"... then you don't
 - "I'm going to be honest"... then you bend the truth
 - "I'm going to stay faithful"... then compromise feels easier
- Can you think of a recent moment where your response surprised you? What do you think that revealed?

REVIEW

– 30 MINUTES

What is revealed in Jerusalem was cultivated in the wilderness.

Read: Matthew 4:8–10 (The Wilderness)

- The wilderness is not just a place—it's a formation space.
- Jesus was being tempted to compromise, to seize the crown without the cross.
- What kinds of 'shortcuts' are you most tempted by?
- Where do you most feel pressure to compromise your identity or calling?
- How can we better view "wilderness seasons as formation rather than absence?"
- "You don't become someone new under pressure—you reveal who you are becoming."



Read: Matthew 21:1-11

- The crowd is celebrating but they have an agenda: Political deliverance, power and spectacle, immediate change.
- Jesus wasn't shaped by the demands or flattery of the crowd because He was already formed in the wilderness
- What does it look like for you to come to God with an agenda?
- How is this different than genuine faith?
- How are humility and faith connected?

How Formation Happens

- *"We are all becoming what we worship."* – James K.A. Smith
- That which captures your attention shapes your life
 - What currently has the majority of your attention and affection?
 - What do your daily habits reveal about who/what you worship?
- *"It isn't trying that gets us there, it's training."* – Dallas Willard. Trying = reacting in the moment.
 - Training = formation before the moment.
- *"Every choice is forming who you are becoming."* – C.S. Lewis.
 - How might you adjust your habits in light of this?
 - Who are you becoming when no one is watching?

APPLICATION

– 30 MINUTES

Choose one intentional practice this week:

- Set aside time for quiet prayer
- Practice honesty in a difficult conversation
- Choose forgiveness where it's hard
- Reorder your time around worship
- Say "no" to a small compromise



Pray:

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of my heart
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that I may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

