

A WILDERNESS SURVIVAL GUIDE

Ashes To Easter – Part 1

February 17, 2013

We cannot know the true joy of Easter, without knowing the desolation, pain and sacrifice that led to the Cross!

Matthew 3:16 (NIV) “As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Him.”

Luke 4:1 (NIV) “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert.”

Hebrews 4:15 (NIV) “For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have One who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.”

YOUR SURVIVAL DEPENDS...

1. On REALIZING your own temptations.

Luke 4:2-3 (NIV) “For forty days He was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them He was hungry. ³ The devil said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.’”

Luke 4:5-7 (NIV) “The devil led Him up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to Him, ‘I will give You all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.’ ⁷ So if You worship me, it will all be Yours.’”

Luke 4:9-11 (NIV) “The devil led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. ‘If You are the Son of God,’ he said, ‘throw Yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written: ‘He will command His angels concerning You to guard You carefully; ¹¹ they will lift You up in their hands, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’”

2. On TURNING to scripture.

Luke 4:4 (NIV) “Jesus answered, ‘It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone.’”

Luke 4:8 (NIV) “Jesus answered, ‘It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’”

Luke 4:12 (NIV) “Jesus answered, ‘It says: Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT) “The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure.”

We often UNDERESTIMATE the mighty and powerful pull of temptation!

John 14:15-17 (NIV) “If you love Me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth... for He lives with you and will be in you.”

God gives us His constant PRESENCE and the strength of His Word to help resist temptation!

Luke 4:13 (NIV) “When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left Him until an opportune time.”

3. On LOOKING to the cross.

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV) “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Romans 6:23 (NIV) “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Lent isn’t just a time to give up what distracts us from God. It’s also a time to get up and follow Him!