

Luke 4:1-2

Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

I think we are familiar with Jesus being in the wilderness and *being tempted for forty days by the devil*. But I want to look at one word in today's verse which is "*wilderness*", which means:

of uncertain affinity; *lonesome*, i.e. (by implication) *waste* :- desert, desolate, solitary, wilderness.

So looking at this word, we know that Jesus was alone with no one else around for forty days. The only one who was around, as the verse says, was the devil who had tempted Jesus for forty days. Yet we tend to think that Jesus was only tempted with three things based upon the three temptations it talks about, and that it all happened in one day. But did you read that was not the case: *being tempted for forty days by the devil*, which means Jesus was tempted for forty days, and I would think each and every day.

But today's devotional is not about that, it's just an added bonus for no extra charge lol. Instead I want to focus on the word *wilderness* again, and by looking at the definition of: "*lonesome, desert, desolate, solitary*," that tells us one very important thing. No one else was around for those forty days.

"*Yeah, you already said that and I get it*" you may be thinking.

Great, so if no one else was around, how did Luke know about what happened so that he could write about it? And not only that, but Matthew and Mark included it in their gospels as well. So all three were not there in the wilderness with Jesus, and they probably didn't even know Jesus at that time either, yet they all write the same account and of the same three temptations. So how did they know about it to write about it?

"*Well, Jesus probably told them about it*" you may be thinking. Ding, ding, ding, we have a winner if that was your answer. Now the scriptures do not tell us that, but I think it would be safe to say it, because it had to be either Jesus or the devil, and the devil wouldn't want his failure to be recorded.

So, if you think about it, Jesus was teaching them with a true, spiritual, life experience that He had. When you think about that, how many life experiences have you had over the years, where you were tested, or a trial hit, or God did something amazing, or that you knew something was from God without a doubt?

Now how many of those things have you shared with others? We tend to think that we have to be at a bible study, or home group, or church, or some “spiritual” event going on to share those experiences. But I have to wonder if Jesus and the boys were just talking like friends do, and during the conversation, the subject came up and Jesus shared it with them. No bible study, no testimony in the temple, no special occasion, just 13 guys (12 disciples, plus Jesus, who was one of the guys) hanging out together talking and sharing life with one another.

The Lord has allowed you to go through things and has done some amazing things in your life, not so you can sound cool at a bible study or at church, but simply to help others and encourage others with just normal conversation of what God has done in your life.

† **Psalm 78:1-4 (NLT2)** *O my people, listen to my instructions. Open your ears to what I am saying, for I will speak to you in a parable. I will teach you hidden lessons from our past— stories we have heard and known, stories our ancestors handed down to us. We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders.*

† **1 Peter 1:15 (KJV)** *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;*