

Following Christ into a Desert

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I. Introduction.

- A. Jesus lived in dependence upon God choosing not to use His own attributes.
- B. Jesus spent time with God in the desert.

II. The desert is a place of conflict. (Luke 4:1)

- A. Standing between Christ and the will of God was Satan who is ready to do the same to us.
- B. Satan wants to take the person who has just had a spiritual experience and bring him against all the forces of evil.

III. The desert is a place of communion with God. (Luke 5:15, 6:12)

- A. Jesus was finding God to meet His spiritual needs.
- B. There was two-way communication.
- C. This is not a mystical inner life but the voice of God through the Scriptures.

IV. The desert was a place of commitment. (Luke 22:39)

- A. Jesus was prepared to give His life because of the previous time He spent in the desert.
- B. In the garden, He gave Himself.

V. Prayer is not easy—it is a conflict.

VI. There is joy and satisfaction in God that can be found in that place of prayer for the one who is persistent there.

Application questions:

1. What is the relationship between conflict and prayer? Explain.

2. What does the “desert” represent for the modern reader according to the speaker?

3. Have you ever spent an hour in prayer? Set aside an hour for prayer and make some notes on your experience below.
