

Identification and Reputation

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I. Introduction.

A. God works in our lives in the “wilderness” and in the “synagogue.”

B. Text: Luke 4:1.

II. Wilderness experiences are not punitive—Jesus was Spirit led into the wilderness.

A. There will be times when we experience an emotional or spiritual wilderness.

B. God is dealing with our identity during these times.

C. You are who God says you are in the Word of God: a child of God, an heir, etc.

D. God decides how long the wilderness is.

E. Suggestions.

1. Remember Christ is your life. (Psalm 62:5-6)

2. Select wise ground controllers.

III. The people rejected Jesus in the synagogue when he challenged their thinking.

A. People cannot cope with the implications of church.

B. We settle the issue of reputation in the synagogue.

C. We must be Christ like at the sake of our reputation. God will fight for us. (Psalm 37:6)

Application questions:

1. Why do we experience emotional or spiritual wildernesses?

2. Why are “ground controllers” essential for establishing your identity? Explain

3. What is the purpose of the “synagogue” experience in our lives? Explain.
