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| **The Wilderness Journey of Faith**  *Promise: God’s Word is Powerful to Bring Us to Saving Faith* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg Duet 26:1-11; Psa 91:1-13; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13 (First Sunday in Lent), 3/9/25)  *And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’”*– v. 4  **Lead In –** When you hear mention of the wilderness in our readings this morning, you need to think in terms of a desert wilderness, an arid, barren, mountainous desert. And you also need to think of it as a place traveled through on the way to a verdant, prosperous, and hospitable place. In Israel’s case it was to a land flowing with milk and honey. In Jesus’ case it was on a path leading to a Cross before His elevation to God’s right Hand. And for Christian pilgrims, for us, it is to the Celestial City from whose throne flows the River of Life. In each case, it is a difficult way full of temptations. And there is one factor, above all else, that will see the traveler through…   1. **Moses And the Greater Moses Prepare the People**    1. All Deuteronomy: Moses’ address to the people…    2. Listening and heeding God’s commands…    3. The New and Greater Moses, still insistence on Word… 2. **God’s Revealed Truths Are Not Hard to Understand**    1. So why did Israel fail, and unbelievers not confess?    2. Easy to understand, but hard to believe…    3. Falling short there are three popular reactions… 3. **God’s Grace Goes to Work In Us to Create Faith**    1. It is the work of the Holy Spirit…    2. God’s Word has power to effect His purposes…    3. Living by every word that comes from God’s mouth…   **Final Word –** The word that will bring us to the destination of our journey is not the word of science, philosophy, or psychology. It is not the word of kings, presidents, or governors. It is not the word of doctors, professors, lawyers, or business executives, no matter how otherwise helpful these words all might be. It will be the straightforward, yet powerful words of Jesus spoken to Martha: “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.” And then as Jesus said to her, He says to you, “Do you believe this?”  **Dt 8:3** And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.  **Dt 6:4-9** “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.  **Dt 30:15-16** See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. | **Luke 4:1-13 ESV**  *The Temptation of Jesus*  1Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness 2for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. 3The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” 4And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” 5And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, 6and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. 7If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” 8And Jesus answered him, “It is written,  “‘You shall worship the Lord your God,  and him only shall you serve.’”  9And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10for it is written,  “‘He will command his angels concerning you,  to guard you,’  11and  “‘On their hands they will bear you up,  lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”  12And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” 13And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.  **Mt 7:24-25** Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.  **Jn 5:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.  **Dt 30:11-14** For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.  **Ro 10:9, 13** If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. … For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”  **1Co 2:14** The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.  **Ro 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. |