

5 Day Devotional for the week of August 24, 2025

This week's five day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend, exploring the powerful concept of being "ekbalo" or sent out with divine purpose. Join us as we reflect on how the Holy Spirit guides our journey beyond the wilderness into a life filled with spiritual fulfillment and purpose.

Day 1 Monday

Mark 1:11-13 ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." ¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted^[a] by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

In the wilderness, Jesus was "ekbalo" or sent out by the Spirit, a compelling reminder that sometimes our most transformative moments occur in our desolate seasons. It is in these times that God prepares us for greater things, just as He equipped Jesus for His ministry.

The wilderness, though challenging, is a place where God sharpens our focus and strengthens our faith. Jesus' experience teaches us that God can use even our most trying times for His glory if we remain faithful and seek His will above all else.

- Reflect on a challenging season in your life. How did God use it to shape you?
- What comforts you about knowing Jesus faced similar wilderness experiences?
- How can you prepare yourself for the wilderness seasons in your own spiritual journey?
- Pray for strength to endure life's wilderness moments with faith and hope.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His purpose in your current season, whether it feels like wilderness or rest.

Day 2 Tuesday

Luke 4:1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

Being led by the Spirit does not always mean a path of ease and comfort. Jesus was led into the wilderness as a preparation for His mission. During this time, He learned obedience and dependence on God's power, which foreshadows our own journeys of faith.

Our spiritual journeys often involve seasons where we are led by the Spirit into the unknown. These moments refine us, transforming our hearts to reflect God's will more accurately. Let us embrace these times, trusting that God is equipping us for His purposes.

- When have you felt led by the Spirit into the unknown? How did you respond?
- Why do you think God allows us to experience wilderness times?
- Where can you see God's refining work in your life today?
- Pray for guidance to remain obedient to the Spirit's leading, no matter where He takes you.
- Seek God's wisdom to understand His refining process in your current circumstances.

Day 3 Wednesday

Matthew 10:1 Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

The concept of "ekbalo" extends beyond individual trials to involve a mandate for mission work. Just as Jesus empowered His disciples, He empowers us to cast out spiritual opposition and bring healing in His name, demonstrating His authority and love.

This is our call to active discipleship, to be sent forth in the power of the Spirit to engage with the world, sharing His love and truth. Embrace the charge to be a living testament of God's transformative power.

- Where do you feel God is calling you to serve or witness in your community?
- How can you use your current skills and talents for kingdom work?
- What fears do you need to overcome to fully respond to Jesus' commissioning?
- Pray for boldness to step into the roles God is calling you to fulfill.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to direct your steps in sharing His love with those around you.

Day 4 Thursday

Luke 4:14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

Emerging from the wilderness, Jesus was filled with the Spirit's power, ready to fulfill His mission. This illustrates a profound truth: after every period of testing and preparation, God empowers us to accomplish His work with renewed vigor and insight.

Your wilderness is not the end of the story. It's the beginning of a powerful testimony. Trust that after this preparation time, you will emerge with a clearer sense of purpose and the Spirit's strength to guide your actions.

- How have you seen God increase your spiritual strength after a time of testing?
- What has God been preparing you for during recent life circumstances?
- Who can you share your journey and testimony with to inspire their faith?
- Pray for clarity on God's mission for you after your wilderness season ends.
- Seek support from the Holy Spirit to maintain spiritual discipline and focus.

Day 5 Friday

Matthew 9:38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."

The harvest calls for workers—those who are ready to be sent, like arrows released from the bow, launched to fulfill God's great commission. It's a call to action that Jesus epitomized and asked of His disciples. Today, this call remains vital as we play our part in God's redemptive work.

Each one of us is a vital piece in God's cosmic mission puzzle. As you prepare to step forward, remember that God calls you not for your credentials but for your heart, devoted to His service, wherever that may lead.

- Where are the harvest fields God is prompting you to notice and engage with?
- How can your daily life become a mission field for God's kingdom work?
- What sacrifices do you need to make to prioritize God's call in your life?
- Pray for open eyes to see the opportunities for harvest around you.
- Ask God to prepare your heart to be willing to serve in His mission field without hesitation.