

Desert Wisdom

September 5, 2021

DISRUPTION | Job 1:1–12

Why on earth would we want to go to the desert? Our modern day lives are all about being as comfortable as we can with as little pain as possible. But, it seems God is determined to make us as uncomfortable as possible and even use pain as a tool. God's deepest work seems to be carried out in the wilderness, so how can we embrace God's disruption?

September 12, 2021

RELEASE | Luke 10:38–42

The attractive things about idols are their portability. They are built for convenience. They fit into our busy schedules and receive whatever leftover devotion we can spare. Not so the God who raised Jesus from the dead. He seems to insist on having everything that we would call ours and that includes our time. A commitment to the desert means letting go of our busy schedules. Only by wasting our time in this way can we truly experience deep transformation.

September 19, 2021

WAY-BREAD | 1 Kings 19:1–9a

Sometimes our route to the desert is not wholly spiritual. Sometimes, we are so caught up in the world's ways that we burn out and finally seek out another way. This too is God's leading and no matter how we get to the desert, God is there to meet us. Out of physical and spiritual resources, God feeds our bodies and souls to prepare us for his work of re-formation.

September 26, 2021

FALSE SELF | Romans 7:14–24

The desert is a place of stripping away. As we embrace the silence and the solitude, as we sit still in the presence of God, we learn that we are false selves. Everything about us is designed to protect ourselves from encountering God and being changed. This includes our religious inclinations. We keep God at a distance by being as moral as possible. God in his grace uproots identity in the desert.

October 3, 2021

UNION | Galatians 2:19–21

God doesn't just strip us down. He washes us and gives us new clothes to put on. In fact, he gives us Christ to put on. God's goal for us is not simply to follow rules, avoiding what is bad and embracing what is good. He desires that we will share in his very own divine life. This is not just in the future, we are to begin now.

October 10, 2021

IDENTITY | Galatians 4:1–7

No matter how long we spend in the desert the goal is always to leave it again. However, this isn't like a vacation because, when desert time is done right, we take the desert with us wherever we go. We move from being in the desert to the desert being in us. This is about our identity being so established in Christ that the world no longer has a hold on us. Rather, we become true ministers of the gospel to the world.