



## 5. “Hired as a Desert Hand”

The Vineyard Church of Conroe

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Sermon Notes

### **The Desert CAN BE THE DESTINATION OF OUR CALLING AND MINISTRY**

*A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”*  
Isaiah 40:3-5

#### **I. Matthew 3:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” <sup>4</sup> John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ...

### **A Desert Calling THOUGH POWERFUL, IS VERY AUSTERE LACKING BASIC COMFORTS**

*...<sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ...*  
Philippians 4:11-13

#### **II. Matthew 3:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! ...  
<sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you

that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ...

## **A Desert Calling REQUIRES US TO MAKE DIFFICULT STANDS**

### **THAT ARE NECESSARY BUT CAN LEAVE US FEELING**

#### **LONELY**

... <sup>25</sup> *I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness. ... Colossians 1:24-26*

### **III. Matthew 3:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> **“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**

## **A Desert Calling FINDS ITS PURPOSE IN GLORIFYING JESUS** **NOT THE MESSENGER**

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. Romans 8:28-29*

### **IV. Matthew 14:1-12**

... <sup>6</sup> **On Herod’s birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for the guests and pleased Herod so much <sup>7</sup> that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. <sup>8</sup> Prompted by her mother, she said, “Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist.” <sup>9</sup> The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted <sup>10</sup> and had John beheaded in the prison. <sup>11</sup> His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. <sup>12</sup> John’s disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus.**

## **A Desert Calling MAY NOT LOOK LIKE A SUCCESS STORY** **BUT IT IS**

*These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. Hebrews 11:39-40*