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**With Me in the Wilderness: Winning in the Wilderness**  
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**Luke 3: 21-23 (NIV):** When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry...

**Luke 4:1-2 (NIV):** Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil...

**Six DESERT Dynamics That Are Only Won in the Wilderness**

**Desert Dynamic #1—D: God Leads Us to the Wilderness to Develop Our Intimacy with Him!**

**Matthew 22:37 (NIV):** ... "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

**Desert Dynamic #2—E: God Leads Us to the Wilderness to Empty Us of Self!**

**Desert Dynamic #3—S: God Leads Us to the Wilderness to Strengthen Us Against the Evil One!**

**Three Categories of Temptation from the Evil One**

**A. Self-Gratification**

**Luke 4:3 (NIV):** ... "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

**B. Self-Glorification**

**Luke 4:5-6 (NIV):** The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor...it will all be yours."

**C. Self-Validation**

**Luke 4:9 (NIV):** ... "If you are the Son of God...throw yourself down from here."

**Desert Dynamic #4—E: God Leads Us to the Wilderness to Establish Us in Our Identity!**

**Desert Dynamic #5—R: God Leads Us to the Wilderness to Ready Us for a Fuller Release of His Power!**

**Luke 4:14 (NIV):** Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit...

**Acts 3:12 (NIV):** ...“Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?”

**Acts 3:16 (NIV):**“By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong...”

**Desert Dynamic #6—T: God Leads Us to the Wilderness to Train Us in Maturity!**

**Hebrews 5:8 (NIV):** ...he learned obedience from what he suffered...

**Colossians 4:12 (NIV):** ...mature and fully assured.

**Luke 5:15 (NIV):** Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses.

**Luke 5:16 (NLT):** But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.