

Daily Devotional



David Welsh | “Be _____” | Voice In The Wilderness | Jan. 9 . 10 | Luke 3:1-6

■ day one { a greater passage }

How do you get there from here? We have GPS devices, cell phones with navigating systems. With all of today's gizmos and gadgets a traveler should never get lost again. If you own one of these neat little items you will know they are full of information. They tell you road conditions, roadblocks, where to turn they even tell you when you have reached your destination. We as Christian are like the navigating traveler trying to find our way. We go through the motions, but we never allow God's word to navigate us on the streets of life and we end up in the wilderness. Lost, looking for direction. Read Luke 3:2. John didn't go until the Word came. He knew that the only way through the wilderness was proper navigation. The tool...God's Word. **Today:** Spend time in Luke chapter 3:1-6. Are you walking in the wilderness, wandering? “Be Still.” and know today that God is listening. Are you?

■ day two { captive }

Have you ever been in danger? How do you react when you feel like you are not safe? More times than not in a state of danger, fear kicks in and we panic. We become captive to our thoughts. What if this? What if that? We're not talking physical danger here; we're talking emotional danger. Many of us spend our life living in fear. We hide it on the inside, crying, lost in the wilderness and smile on the outside. We fill our lives with stuff, we change our hair, we change our clothes all the while we stay empty. We go to church, listen to the sermon, volunteer during the service and leave feeling the same emptiness we felt when we went inside. Why? Because we are just going through the motions, we never let God's word empower us. Read the words of Matthew West song “The Motions”, *This might hurt, it's not safe, But I know that I've gotta make a change, I don't care if I break, At least I'll be feeling something, 'Cause just okay is not enough, Help me fight through the nothingness of life, I don't wanna go through the motions, I don't wanna go one more day, without Your all consuming passion inside of me...* **Today:** Whether you are in the valley or on the mountaintop, hiding in the wilderness or standing in broad daylight, don't just go through the motions. Draw near to Him and He will draw near to you. (James 4:8)

■ day three { PRAY }

What does prayer mean to you? As a little girl my mom would tuck us in and say a bedtime prayer with us. They started like this, “Now I lay me, down to sleep I pray the Lord my soul to keep.” Maybe you know the prayer; maybe you pray it with your children. Sadly, for me at the age of four or five, it was a part of a routine. It meant bedtime, not a time of conversation with God my Father. I didn’t understand the true meaning of those words until I was 27 and came to know Jesus as my Savior. Only then did they become more than just words, they became Truth. Now both my flesh and my spirit see the “Salvation of God.” (Luke 3:6) **Today:** Get out of the shadows of routine and step into the Light. Be empowered, and ALWAYS P-R-A-Y: Praise Him, Repent, Ask, & Yield your life to Him.

■ day four { BEWARE }

What does deception look like? We all think we know deception when we see it, but let’s be honest, how many of us lie to ourselves? Ask yourself this question, “Do I do the things I do to bring me glory or to bring God glory?” Struggling to answer? Beware of those who seek vain glory; it is the difference that separates the believers from the Christ followers.” Verily, verily I say unto you the servant is not greater than his Lord.” (John 13:16) **Today:** Read Philippians 2:3 Engrave it on your heart.

■ day five { true servant }

What does it mean to be a servant? Hi, I’m a sinner. Forgiven and covered by Grace. Not because of whom I am, but because of whom Jesus is. As godly servants we understand our roles and that we are not perfect. What sets us apart isn’t who led but who leads us. We as godly servants continue to be led by the Leader Himself. As Christ followers we understand that we are all called to the same purpose, (Matthew 28:19-20); but that we are not called to go in the same manner to spread the gospel. We know that we are one body of believers; each member having a different function given by the Holy Spirit and Him alone. We know that the only way to know our function as a servant of God is to seek first His Word and listen as He leads us. We must immerse ourselves in Him daily and not just be sprinkled on occasion. We are not perfect on our own, but made perfect through Him (1 Peter 5:10) **Today and Daily:** Become a student of Jesus. Begin by reading His word, praying, and when prompted by the Holy Spirit, go.

■ a word from the writers

This daily devotional and a weekly bible study for Life Groups that coincides with the current sermon is also available on the church website: ccc.org. We loved to hear your comments or suggestions. Email the writing team at: lampr@ccc.org.