

A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

WEEK 5



RECEIVING JESUS
a study in John

Summary:

We are called to be voices in the wilderness, people who carry a different sound, a sound that tells the world how valued and known it is by the God who made it. In this message we see that the "voice" we carry is one that sounds like God, looks like God, and points entirely to God, embracing a submission of all our theology and beliefs to the image of Jesus!

Key Points:

- John the Baptist's diet of locusts and honey symbolizes living on what appears to be nothing while actually being sustained by more than enough through an infatuation with God
- The religious leaders who questioned John were seeking the fulfillment of prophecy rather than the God the prophecy pointed to, causing them to miss the Messiah standing in their midst
- The church's role is not to convince people of their sinfulness but to show them their value and reflect the reality that God does not pay a high price for things without worth
- The place where John baptized Jesus, identified as Bethany or Bethabara meaning "place of crossing," connects the moment of Christ's baptism to the same location where Israel crossed carrying the Ark of the Covenant, signifying the continuity of God's living presence
- Revival without restoration is incomplete; believers must rearrange the furniture of their lives, both naturally and spiritually, to sustain what God wants to do

Reflection:

- how does reframing your identity as one who belongs to God, rather than one who merely looks different from the world, change the way you live out your faith day to day?
- John the Baptist was sustained on locusts and honey in the wilderness, living on more than enough through an infatuation with God — what does it look like practically for you to find genuine fullness in God during seasons when your circumstances seem to offer very little?
- in what ways might you be tempted to pursue what God has promised rather than pursuing God, and what difference does that distinction make?
- believers should actively pattern their lives to reflect heaven on earth rather than simply waiting to go to heaven one day — what areas of your life might God be calling you to rearrange so that your surroundings begin to look more like your true home?
- God's presence has been constant and accessible across generations, and how does that truth affect your expectation of encountering him now?

Scripture Reference:

John 1:19-28 Isaiah 35:1-3 Luke 7:18-28

SERMON NOTES
9/26/26