

Sermon 2/21/21 – Pastor Tony Fields, Sr.
Prayers for the journey

The voice from heaven calls Jesus “Beloved.” What does Jesus’ belovedness mean to you? (Mark 1:11)

In Mark’s baptismal account, God surges into the life of Jesus. The heavens are “torn apart” (NRSV), and the Spirit descends with urgency and intention on this newly declared openly Son of God. Whatever life has implicated before His baptism, Jesus removes it behind when He emerges from Jordan’s waters. He begins to speak and live out the good news of God’s powerful, reconfiguring presence in the world.

Nevertheless, in the arrest of John the Baptist and the presence of Satan in the wilderness, we see the threat that Jesus will face. From 2020 until today, “The Church” was launch into the nature of the Pandemic. The question that lies before us today is that are we willing to follow this beloved Son? Are we willing to let God erupt into our lives, to take the dare of a new life from God?

Lent is a time of renewal. I am inviting you, while in these 40 days, to engage in spiritual renewal, contemplation, and liberation from fear, overwhelming anxiety, and self-doubt.

This year be intentional. We can be calculated when we know our purpose and who God is calling us to be. The church is more than a place of refuge. The church is a powering station to equip the Saint so that we can be launched into the wilderness. If learned anything we should learn that we must be creative and bold in our ministry. We have to be more than a reactive. We must be aggressive in our ministry, no not hostile but bold. In the wilderness do you know what our community desires? The church will rise in the face of adversity. The church must grow and take its rightful place.

In time of complex uncertainties, difficult conversations, social injustice, political unrest I agree with this quote by Les Brown,

“We are living in the era of the three C’s—accelerated change, overwhelming complexity, extreme competition. Therefore average will not be enough”-Les Brown. Therefore knowing our purpose does help not only us but also our community. Did you see what happens when Jesus was validated? He was launched.

Repent changing of the heart and disobedience. God has to keep his promise that he made to Abraham. Our disobedience can’t cancel God’s commitment.

Believe

Covenant Promises - Genocide of a people / God decide to cancel a whole nation
Total Depravity- human sinfulness

Therefore we need prayers for the journey! I will ask you to write out your prayers; however, I will give you a few names who were “drove out in the wilderness. “

Here are some names of saints who have experienced the wilderness, confronted “wild animals,” who resisted evil and temptation, or engaged principalities and powers and yet cared for by God’s angels.

Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Dr. Ida Scudder
Saints Oscar Romero
Saint Mother Teresa
Amanda Gorman
Raphael Warnock
Rashida Jones

LTS
The Rev. Dr. Melvin Baber
The Rev. Dr. Nathan D Baxter
The Rev. Dr. Vanessa Lovelace
The Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams

Now think of your baptism. What is the voice of heaven saying to you? Are you ready to be “Drove into the wilderness”?