

DIVINE BEGINNINGS

Matthew 4:1 - 11

1. JESUS' WILDERNESS HAD A DIVINE PURPOSE.

- After 30 years ... (Luke 3:23)
 - A. Baptism - Matt 3:17.
 - B. Beginning - Matt 4:1. **Then, Jesus was led by the Spirit** into the wilderness ...

HOW CAN THE WILDERNESS HAVE A DIVINE PURPOSE?

- We have to find God's voice in it – and join Him by obeying His direction.
- All three temptations –
 - Scripture. 4:4, 7, 10.
 - Jesus never “cracked the door” by hesitating; or considering.
- Galatians 5:16-17.

2. THE OPPONENT ATTACKED WHOSE HE WAS AND WHAT HE WAS SENT TO DO.

- Matt 3:17.
- Satan's temptations:
 - V 4:3, If you are the Son of God...
 - V 4:6, If you are the Son of God...
 - Matt 27:40, "If you are Son of God, come down from the cross."
- John 12:24, 27

HAS THE CHURCH FORGOTTEN WHOSE WE ARE AND WHAT WE ARE SENT TO DO?

- John 15:5, 18 – 19
- Matthew 28:18-20



MUSLIM “CALL-TO-PRAYER,” OR “ADHAN”

- Friday call to prayer (Minaret)
 - Compared to ringing of church bells
- Content – concise summary of Muslim belief:
 - A. Allah (God) is greatest (4x)
 - B. I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship but Allah
 - C. I bear witness that Muhammad is his messenger (2x)

JAMES BUCHANAN DUKE (1856 – 1925)

- Durham, NC, tobacco farm; Tobacco products
- Energy, Duke Power Company
- Duke Endowment (income dist to Duke University, hosp, ... retired NC Methodist ministers)
- Lifelong Methodists; relocation of Trinity College, 1892 to Durham (“Methodist related institution)
- Father, brother are interred in Duke Memorial Chapel

3. HIS OPPONENT TEMPTED HIM TO “NIBBLE” AT AVOIDING THE CROSS.

- V 3:3. Turn these stones into bread.
 - **End your hunger pains** (near end of fast)
 - The fast was God’s will. V 4:1-2
- V 3:6. Throw yourself down.
 - **Be rescued from danger**
 - Matt 26:53-54. (I can appeal to God...)

IS THE CHURCH LOST SIGHT OF THE POWER OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS?

- Matthew 5:13 - 14
- Luke 9:23-26
- Letter

GOD'S PRESENT WORD TO ME

1. **Revival:**
 - Joy of the Lord
 - Heart for the lost
2. **Church plant mind-set**
3. **Spontaneous generosity. Matt 2:11**
4. **Great Commission – India**
5. **Family:**
 - Husbands/wives
 - Parents/children
6. **Current events**