

The logo features the words "LIVE" and "DIFFERENTLY" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. "LIVE" is positioned above "DIFFERENTLY". The letters are set against a background of a purple and blue circular pattern that resembles a stylized flower or a lens flare effect.

First Sunday of Lent - Live Differently

"These 40 Days"

Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

Living Differently may mean some time in the wilderness

First Sunday of the Season of Lent - a word that is connected to "40"

The Counter-Cultural Calling of Christ—What keeps us from becoming fully alive? What is the true cost of discipleship in our current culture? How do we live differently so that others might be drawn to Jesus?

Today we're going to be exploring the foundational text for Lent

The story of Jesus being led into the wilderness and tested...

When you're in the wilderness you learn to live differently

You learn that if you give in to the moment, it could be deadly.

AND when you find yourself in the wilderness, you learn who you really are.

LIVING DIFFERENTLY MAY MEAN SOME TIME IN THE WILDERNESS

Matthew 4:1-11 - The Temptation of Jesus

- What's happening here? The difference between "tempted" and "tested."*
- Let's talk about this "devil" character for a moment...*
- The temptations hit Jesus right where is in the moment—frailty, weariness*
- Jesus knows there is more at stake than the moment he is in.*
- The difference between loving the gifts of God—not the Giver*
- It's not power, but love that makes the world go around.*

Because Jesus didn't exchange what felt best for what was best. He didn't give in to the temptation of now--because he knew there was more at stake than the moment.

Sometimes it takes the Wilderness to teach us what's at stake

- The Marshmallow Test - not exactly a wilderness moment, and yet...*
- The Accuser always has a way of showing up in those moments.*
- But it's in the wilderness that we find ourselves on the path of following Jesus.*
 - Don't avoid it, lean into it, and then remember who you are.*

LIVING DIFFERENTLY MAY MEAN SOME TIME IN THE WILDERNESS



SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

FOR FURTHER READING:

A Way Other Than Our Own: Devotions for Lent
Walter Brueggeman

Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter
Rowan Williams

The Art of Lent: A Painting A Day from Ash Wednesday to Easter
Sister Wendy Beckett

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