

Week #	255	Series:	The Gospels
Title:	Into the Wilderness		
Scriptures:	Mark 1:12-13; Luke 11:20; Matthew 9:37-38; Matthew 4:2; Psalm 11:5; I Chronicles 21:1; Revelation 12:10; Revelation 12:7-9; I Peter 5:8; James 1:2-4		

**Notes:**

The gospels of **Matthew, Mark, and Luke** are referred to as the synoptic Gospels because they include many of the same stories, often in a similar sequence and in similar or sometimes identical wording. They stand in contrast to **John**, whose content is largely distinct.

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The “finger of God” (in Luke 11:20) refers to what God said to the Israelites found in Deuteronomy 5:15 – that He would take them out of Egypt with the might of only His little finger. Meaning that there is more might in God’s little finger than Pharaoh had in his entire human force or whatever false gods were behind him. Even when we throw all our might at a situation and don’t see it move, God only has to use the might in His little finger to bring about a miraculous move.

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**Into the Wilderness:**

All three of the synoptic Gospels tell us that Jesus, after being baptized, went into the wilderness to be tempted.

Mark 1:12-13

<sup>12</sup> Immediately the Spirit drove him out into the wilderness,  
<sup>13</sup> and he was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by the Adversary. He was with the wild animals, and the angels took care of him.

There is a lot to unpack in these two scriptures, so we will take it one piece at a time.

Mark 1:12-13

<sup>12</sup> Immediately the Spirit **drove him** out into the wilderness, The Greek word used here is **ekballo**. It is first used in the Old Testament account of Adam and Eve’s expulsion from the garden of Eden *Ekballo* is not the normal term used for “send / sent out” as most of our Bible translations have it. The CJB (above) has a little more force with using the word “drove.”

*Ekballo* is a spiritually violent word filled with passion and force. We see this word used several times throughout scripture, and its force does not translate well into English, so we lose a little of its fierceness that use of the Greek word retains.

Luke 11:20

<sup>20</sup> But if I **drive out** [*ekballo*] demons by the finger of God, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you!

Matthew 9:37-38

<sup>37</sup> Then he said to his *talmidim* [*disciples*], “The harvest is rich, but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Pray that the Lord of the harvest will **send out** [*ekballo*] workers to gather in his harvest.”

The authority and the force of Jesus casting out demons is the same spiritual force and authority by which he thrust forth laborers.

*Ekballo* is the word used when Jesus goes to confront Satan in the wilderness. The Gospel of Mark points out the Holy Spirit drove Jesus into the desert with this fierceness to confront Satan. It seems as if the power and the resistance of Satan and his evil spirits must be confronted by a greater forcefulness and empowerment. When Jesus *ekballos* demons, demons must leave.

Mark 1:12-13

<sup>12</sup> Immediately the Spirit drove him out into the wilderness,









