February 21, 2021 Lenten Devotional
Mark 1:9-15 - Temptation in the Wilderness
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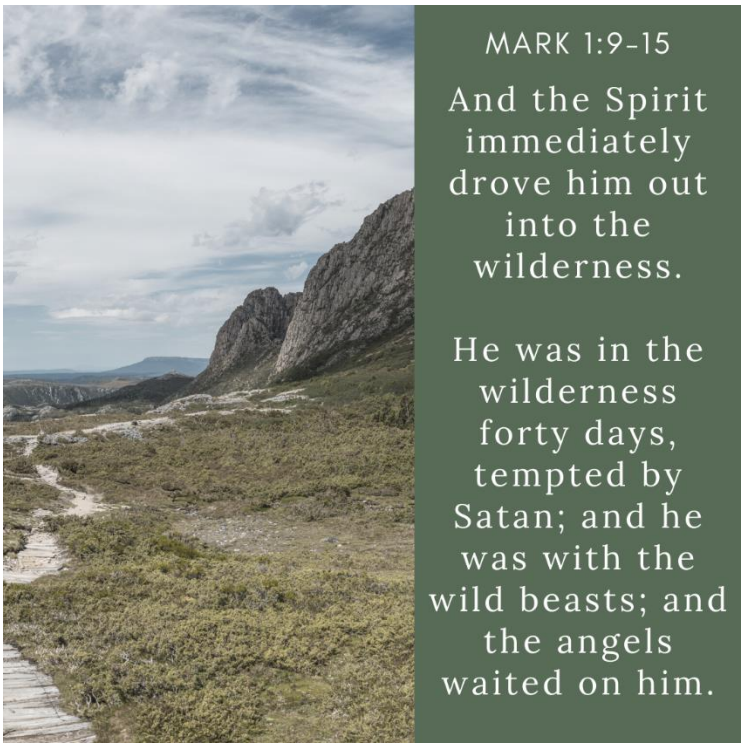

It is hard for me to not see direct correlations between this passage and our current environment. Immediately after Jesus is baptized, he is thrown into the wilderness and his faith is tested. This past year has felt like we have all been thrown into the wilderness to be tested. From Covid-19 to politics to social justice issues, we have been put into situations where it may be hard to see the Holy Spirit working in our everyday lives.

Something Mark leaves out of this passage, though, is how Jesus handled his struggles – did he want to give up? did he need to take a moment of rest? did he lose faith? did he feel defeated? I have to assume that he felt all of these emotions. Struggles are not meant to be easily overcome; they are meant to help us grow, as an individual and as a society.

What Mark doesn't leave out is the fact that through all of the trials and tribulations, angels are always with us to guide us. Angels can come in many different forms: conversations with friends, prayer and devotion, advocacy work, spending time with family, etc. No matter which form, they have been placed in our lives to help us make it through our days in the wilderness. Know you can always call on them throughout your path to hearing the good news of God.

Prayer:

Let us end in prayer. Dear Lord, it is hard work to find our way through each trial and tribulation we are put through. Lord, let us look to you and to our angels to provide comfort and guidance through these hard times. Even though we stumble along the way and question our faith, you are there to guide us and let us grow stronger in faith. Amen