

March 8, 2026

**WISDOM IN THE WILDERNESS:  
THE WILDERNESS AS A PLACE OF SELF-DENIAL  
Matthew 6.19-24**

This week, our Lenten journey will explore the wilderness as a place of self-denial. The Desert Fathers and Mothers escaped to the desert because they knew the dangers of materialism, and they chose instead to focus on the heavenly treasure Jesus talked about in the Sermon on the Mount.

**WARNINGS FROM JESUS ABOUT MONEY AND POSSESSIONS:**

*“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”*  
Matthew 6.24

- Money and possessions can become **AN IDOL**.
- Remember that money and stuff **ORDERS US AROUND**.

**How to make sure money and possessions don't rule your life:**

1. Make God **A PRIORITY**. vv19-21
2. Take care of what you **FOCUS ON**. vv22-23

3. Practice **GRATITUDE**.

4. Practice **GENEROSITY**.

5. **SIMPLIFY** your life. Learn to **LET GO** of **THINGS**.

*Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”*  
Mark 10.21

*Journey together throughout the week with Morning Prayers on the Lectio 365 app for your phone and learn more about prayer and the Desert Fathers and Mothers.*

**What is God saying to me?**

**What am I going to do about it?**

**Love God, Love Others, Learn Jesus, DO SOMETHING!**  
Today's sermon can be found on our website **[beaverdambaptist.org](http://beaverdambaptist.org)**