

Often when people are faced with problems they don't feel like they can handle, they choose to escape or run. For example, when husbands and wives are faced with issues in their marriage they try to escape by seeking a divorce. Sometimes one party decides to pack their things and leave. When they do this, what they are really doing is playing into the hands of the devil and running into the wilderness. Let's look at this principle as it is illustrated in the Bible.

### Elijah

Elijah, that great prophet, when faced with the wicked Jezebel, ran for his life. Guess where he ran? He ran to Beersheba. Beersheba was a wilderness. Look at 1 Kings 19:2-4,

*Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time. And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey **into the wilderness**, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.*

### David

David, when faced with hard times in his life, wished he could fly away and run away from his problems and escape into the wilderness. Psalms 55:4-8 states,

*My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me. Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me. And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest. Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain **in the wilderness**. Selah. I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest.*

Who do you think planted these thoughts into the heads of Elijah and David? If you think it was the devil, then you are right. His one goal in life is to destroy you, and he has no problem helping you put on your shoes, grab the car keys, throw a bag in the trunk, and skid off. Then, like Elijah and David, he will send you straight into the wilderness. He may cause you to feel like all you need is a beer, some marijuana,

or some other drug to ease the pain of dealing with your situation. Guess what? He wants to send you flying—high as a kite with **wings like a dove**. He wants to make you feel like you need to get out of here and **wander far off**. And he wants to make you do it fast and with urgency so that you may think to yourself, **I would hasten my escape**.

### The Man with the Unclean Spirit

In Luke 8:29, the man with the unclean spirit was driven into where? The wilderness. By whom? The devil.

*For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil **into the wilderness**.*

### You

The devil would love to plan your escape and send you straight into the wilderness where there is no water. Remember Hagar? When she ran into the wilderness of Beersheba, there was no water, and she didn't want to see her son die. The wilderness is a barren place, and that's where the devil wants to take you. Instead of letting him plan your escape from your problems, let Jesus do it. That's right! Look at 1 Corinthians 10:13,

*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also **make a way to escape**, that ye may be able to bear it.*

Maybe you have been planning to leave your spouse or run away from some other problem, or perhaps you have already left your family and are already in the wilderness. Don't let the devil keep you without water. Stop, and let God **make a way to escape** for you. His plan of escape is not to send you off running like the devil does but to have you stay put right in the situation you are facing. You see in His escape plan He will keep you in a place where there is **life**.