

Sermon Outline – September 14, 2014  
**Simplify: Finding the Desert Place With God**  
**Without Completely Drying Up**  
Isaiah 41:19-20 Luke 4:1-13

1. A great challenge: To \_\_\_\_\_ our lives so that we can \_\_\_\_\_ find the \_\_\_\_\_ place with God without completely \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The takeaway for this sermon that is behind the great challenge: God often does his best work in our lives when we are in the \_\_\_\_\_.

- What does it mean to be in the desert?
- When you were in that desert time, does it seem now that God was more present and working in your life?
- It is in the desert times in our lives that we experience God being more \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives.

3. Notes on the parable in Isaiah 41:19-20

*God says,* <sup>19</sup> “I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set junipers in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together, <sup>20</sup> so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the Lord has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it.”

4. What happens when we think we are bumping along OK in life?

**Desert**

Significantly ----- Mildly ----- Mildly ----- Significantly  
Sad/Anxious Sad/Anxious Happy/Hopeful Happy/Hopeful

**Garden**

- In which of these four do you think most people are most of the time?

- Which of these four is the most vulnerable place to be, spiritually?
- Where in these four are we more likely to be aware of God’s presence and work in our lives?
- What is not being taught today?

5. What testimony is often revealed in the lives of God’s people in the Bible?

6. If we can agree that the presence and work of God is more vivid to us when we are in the deserts of our lives, then what is the great challenge?

- We can choose to walk into the desert by \_\_\_\_\_ our daily lives through \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves of unnecessary noise and busyness.
- What is the great benefit of simplifying our lives by voluntarily walking into the desert?

7. What is a next step?

8. What change in my behavior is being encouraged?