

BELPRES CHURCH

Sermon Title: Out of Control

Scripture:

Ezekiel 36:24, 33-36

²⁴ “For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land.

³³ “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be rebuilt. ³⁴ The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass through it. ³⁵ They will say, “This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden; the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited.” ³⁶ Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the LORD have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.’

Mark 1:9-13

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted^[a] by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Discussion Questions: Ezekiel 36:24, 33-36 & Mark 1:9-13

Read this week's scripture(s) & answer the below questions with your friends, family, or All In small group.

Opening Questions:

- Icebreaker: You are given \$1000 and told you must use all of it to anonymously bless another person. What would you do with the money?
- Looking back, were you able to apply any of the things we talked about last time to your life this week? What did you do? How did it go?

Scripture Reflection Questions:

- What do we learn about God (e.g., traits, personality, what matters, priorities) in this passage and sermon?
- What do we learn about people, and ourselves in particular, this week?

Sermon Reflection Questions - *Reflecting on this week's sermon, discuss the following:*

- What does it look like for you to let God be in control? Does it feel active or passive?
- When we follow the Spirit, we are often given the first step to take, but not a second. Why do you think the Spirit only gives us one step at a time (and wouldn't it be nice if the Spirit gave us the 10-step process all at once)?

Closing Question and Application:

- Given what we've discussed together today, how might God want you to apply these learnings to your life or in the life of your community this next week?
- Who might you share this with?

Closing Group Prayer:

- Spend a few minutes together in your group sharing prayer requests and then praying together for each other. Thank God for the time together, the conversation shared, the other people in the group, and for encouragement in the week ahead.