

# *Katalyst Church*



*A Revolution of Love*

# Thrive in the Desert

**Embrace growth in the hard times**

**Adversity – Environment is not favourable**

**Trails and Tribulations**

**Oxymoron of Desert + Thrive**

**Season when the most personal development occurs**



**Satan loves to take advantage of our desert experience:  
Kick us when we are down  
Take away any sense of hope  
Swamp us with a sense of impossibility - Insurmountable  
Lure us in our weakness into deeper despair  
Antagonise us with further shame, grief, turbulence**

**Martin Luther once said that, 'Satan is easy to recognize.  
He is the one that comes when you are tired and makes  
a very reasonable request.'**

**Paul's sermon gave us some great strategies  
So we can survive and thrive in those difficult periods**





# Thrive in the Oasis

**Grow when it is expected – Good times**

**No strong Persecution or hardship**

**No obvious obstacles**

**Oxymoron of Oasis + Spiritual/Moral Decline**



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Lure us in our weakness  
Antagonise us with shame**

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He is the one that comes when you are tired and makes  
a very reasonable request.'**

**Equal Danger when times are good  
Our defenses are down - apathetic, complacent  
Our backs aren't against the wall  
- Guarded**

- **Involved in an extraordinary itinerant ministry**
- **Strong accountability and intimate fellowship**
- **Mentoring - learning - sharing**
- **Performing miracles - healings, deliverance**
- **Part of a band of brothers that changed the course of human history**
- **In a context so conducive to thriving, Judas ended up conniving, stealing, possessed, betraying and suicidal**



Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!" **John 6:70**

**We know that Jesus knew his true colours**

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ....The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

**Luke 10: 1ff**

**We know that there was no outward struggle to blend in and operate as one of the 12. After more than three years of association, the disciples entertained no suspicion of Judas' duplicity, but had confidence in him.**

After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “Truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.” His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.” Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?” Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered him. So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.” *But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him.* Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. **John 13:23-29**

**Judas was not the automatic black sheep of the group. The others asked Lord is it me? They didn't turn and point at Judas.**



**Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages. He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. **John 12:1-6****

**We get the insight into why Judas' heart was or became so evil.  
GREED**



**He allowed greed to turn  
from petty theft to betrayal,  
to possession, to death**

**Chose to walk in the  
shadows instead of bringing  
things into the light**

**Tragedy is that those around  
him were the ideal support  
group to offer grace and  
healing.**

**The Betrayer started out as a  
man Jesus called with great  
Opportunity to THRIVE**

**Being in a Church/healthy spiritual environment with all the right ingredients doesn't mean that the enemy is not at work and we are not susceptible to temptation**

**The Desert is no doubt a place of pressure and vulnerability, but the oasis requires vigilance as well**

**Someone who "performs" isn't a guarantee of a life that is not struggling with some deep area of sin**

**Any little weakness can become a much bigger stronghold left unchecked – A pathway to destruction if it doesn't get dealt with**

**Judas carries the large portion of onus for not "coming clean"  
Masqueraded his struggles - Deceptive and deceitful**

**His 11 brothers never noticed his heart wasn't pure and they effectively lived in each others pockets..**



# **GOLD - Greed**

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6:10

Tithing - Exposes the attitude of our hearts in this area: Generosity/Fearful/Selfish

# **GIRLS/GUYS - Lust**

David and Bathsheba + Samson and Delilah + Solomon and his concubines

# **GLORY - Pride**

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18

Proverbs 26:1-11 - Solomon declares that a man who has become blind to his own faults, only counts himself as wise and defers to no one, is headed for great calamity.

Over and over again, the scriptures declare that God "gives grace to the humble, but resists the proud!"

Over the past 20 years I have lost count of the times I have sat and listened to the agony, pain and shame that has come about as a result of weakness, poor decisions and sin – **None of us are immune from poor choices and wrong decisions**

Every time I do, I am given a stark warning of just how close I could personally be to falling prey to the enemy of my soul – **He is lurking and only a fool would live unguarded.**

His clever devices are always at work to find an opening!  
He will not rest until he has violated your life!

Few subjects are talked about so little, but need to be talked about so much!

**Turn on the light, expose the darkness. Come clean and come out**

Be on guard, stay accountable! Be brave... ask others whether you keep

WALKING  
IN THE  
LIGHT







**A man after Gods own heart - David**  
**The wisest men in History - Solomon**  
**One of Jesus chosen 12 - Judas**

# Unguarded Moments

**Don't entertain evil**

**Guard your heart and mind IN Christ Jesus**

**Keep short accounts with God**

**Have a band of brothers/sisters to be transparent**

**Don't walk alone - Congregation is invaluable**

**Trust somebody - Confess your sins**

**Where sin abounds Grace abounds even more**

**THRIVE - SAFEGUARD YOUR LIFE**