

# Desert Quarantine -- A Modern Day Parable

Inspired by Mark 1:12-15

The coronavirus drove Dean into the back, spare bedroom of his home to quarantine for 14 days. He was tempted to pretend that he hadn't tested positive since he had no symptoms and didn't really feel sick. During the night on the third day, a high fever set in and he had hallucinations of wild beasts living among the houses in his subdivision.

Dean's family ministered to him while wearing masks and gloves, and hoping they wouldn't catch the dreaded virus. But, unfortunately they all did, just as Dean was recovering. After his wife had been hospitalized, Dean went to the grocery store and saw people shopping without masks. He wound his way through the aisles selecting various items, but he was continually distracted and troubled by those moving about nonchalantly through the store as if we were not dealing with a year-long pandemic. Dean selected a variety of soups and fresh fruit to be ready for his wife's recovery and return home.

As he approached the frozen food section, Dean couldn't stand it any longer. He reminded those with exposed faces of the CDC guidelines and told them mask wearing can save lives. He said, this is the time to be diligent and compliant. I, myself, recently recovered from a terrible experience of the sickness, and my wife is now in the hospital with it. He tried to empathize by saying, I know it is tiring and that you are tempted to be more relaxed with everything. But, please, do your part! Dave's heart was racing. His hands were trembling. But, the others seemed to be unmoved.

He pleaded with them saying, "This is real. I am serious. You do not want to contract this virus! You could have it without knowing, and you could be exposing others!" Dean seemed to have captured their attention at last. He took a deep breath and proclaimed, "This is the time of fulfillment. COVID is at hand. Rethink it and believe in the guidelines!"