



Series: Unexpected Messiah

Passage Matthew 4:1-11

Title: The Temptation of Christ

Speaker: Pastor David Menard – 3/8/2020

Discussion Starter – How has this message given you a different perspective on the purpose of why God leads us into the wilderness? Why did He do it with Jesus and why does He do it with us?

Gratify Bodily Needs (Matthew 4:1-4)

- Matthew 4:1 says that Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. How does this statement challenge what we might think of when describing the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
- Matthew 4:2 says that Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights. This seems pretty amazing to consider. In what way are you affected by a lack of food? Have you ever fasted from any fleshly or bodily desires for any prolonged periods of time? If so, describe your experience. If not, why not? Read Daniel 9:3 and Acts 14:23. What insights do these verses give us on purpose of fasting?
- What tactics do you see Satan using to try to tempt Jesus to fall into his trap? What types of questions does Satan get you to think about when you are in uncomfortable circumstances or trials in your life?
- Why would Jesus have been disqualified as our kinsman redeemer if He had turned the stones into bread? What lesson can we learn from Jesus about God's purpose for allowing these types of temptations in our lives? Read James 1:2-4 and 2 Peter 1:3-8. Discuss what how these verses speak to God's purpose for allowing trials and temptations in our lives?
- Jesus gives us tremendous insight in how He answers Satan's first temptation. Paraphrased, Jesus is saying life is not found in gratifying our physical desires, life is found in knowing God. What does this statement mean to you, and what areas in your life do you see where you can apply this truth?

Yielding To Pride (Matthew 4:5-7)

- In what way was Satan upping the ante and trying to attack Jesus's pride by this temptation? How did Jesus demonstrate obedience? What is the significance of where he takes and what he says to Jesus? How is this applicable to how Satan tempts us today?
- What do you see as the true root behind the pride of the desire to impress others? What do we learn from Jesus by how He responds to Satan, and what does this reveal to us about the importance of maintaining our identity in Christ? Read Psalm 23. Discuss the additional insights gained from this passage.

Yielding To Shortcuts (Matthew 4:8-11)

- Why do you think this might have been the most difficult temptation for Jesus to face?
- What are some of the ways Satan tempts us to take shortcuts that take us out of the will of God? Read Romans 5:19. What lesson does Jesus teach us here about being obedient to God's word?