

Gathering Guide

for Communities and Friends

The Temptation of Christ (Part 1)

2/3/2019

Where We Are In The Bible

This week we begin a new sermon series looking at the dramatic encounter between Jesus and Satan in the wilderness as Satan aggressively pursues Jesus in an attempt to persuade him to commit sin. This drama is found in various forms in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Our messages will be from Matthew. This week we will be looking at Matthew 3:16–4:4.

Lean In

- In this narrative we see the devil portrayed as a very real and formidable foe. How do we at times underestimate Satan? Where have you experienced spiritual warfare in your life that could in part be specific attacks from Satan?
- Take a look at the various accounts of Jesus being tempted (Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, and Luke 4 1-13). What are the differences and similarities between the three passages? Why might each of the authors have included or excluded various facts. Why might the order of events be different?
- What Satan suggests to Jesus in verse 3 makes sense – why starve yourself to death? Why was this such a big deal? What is different between Jesus turning the rocks into bread in this case and later turning water into wine? Or creating bread out of nothing to feed 5,000?
- Restate Jesus' reply to Satan in verse 4 in your own words. Why is this an effective response?

The Big Idea

Our God is a good Father and lavishes us with many blessings. Unfortunately, we can become so hooked on the blessings we may find ourselves turning our back on the Giver! It is an old trick of Satan to entice us to desire fulfillment of physical needs and pleasures we think are essential, thus causing us to question the goodness of our Heavenly Father when we are lacking. In the end we discover everything we ever needed is provided to us by God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ!

Where To?

- When you read through Matthew 4:1-11, what do you think the physical and mental state of Jesus would have been when this temptation occurred? How does our physical, mental, or emotional state contribute to how we respond in circumstances where we might be tempted to sin?
- Pastor Steve shared 3 strategies on dealing with our cravings. Have any of those worked for you? The final strategy was to “distract yourself” from your cravings. As a Christian, what kind of distractions would be appropriate? Take a look at Philippians 4:8 as you answer that question. How may prayer be important during these times?
- In John Chapter 4 Jesus has a remarkable encounter with a Samaritan women. As that ended His disciples returned with food, knowing that Jesus should be famished. Read John 4:31-34. What was the food Jesus spoke of in verse 34? How might our understanding of this first temptation of Jesus be enhanced by what we read in John 4:34? If Jesus had succumbed and sinned in Matthew 4, how might his ministry and mission (vs 34) been impacted?
- In John 6:35 Jesus claims to be the bread of life. What was the significance of that statement? What is that significance to us in 2019 as we partake in communion together?

Prayer Focus

Father, you are a good God! May your will be done in our lives and in our world. Supply each of us with our daily bread, and forgive us for our sins, especially for our lack of trust in you as our Provider. Protect us from the traps being set by the evil one and lead us into your glorious presence. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

