

Matthew Series “Tested and Trusting”
Matthew 4:1-11
Feb 13, 2022

Matthew 4:1-2

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

Led into the wilderness.

Jesus was really tempted.

Matthew 11:3-4

3 And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” **4** But he answered, “It is written,
“Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

“If you really are the son of God....”

Deuteronomy 8:2-4

2 And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. **3** And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

If you believe God loves you then why are you suffering?

Matthew 11:5-7

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple
6 and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,
“He will command his angels concerning you,
and

“On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

7 Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

“For it is written...”

This temptation reveals the “now” qualification of our prayers.

Matthew 11:8-11

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. **9** And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." **10** Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

Jesus helps us see that mission and worship are always connected.

Satan offers Jesus the world without the cross.

Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- Does it surprise you that God would lead Jesus into the wilderness? How does this shape our thoughts about what God might and might not lead us into?
- How are the temptations Jesus faced real temptations for him? Can you see the strategy of Satan in each temptation?
- What was the last circumstance you went through that caused you to question God's love? How does Jesus show us that God's love and difficulties are not mutually exclusive?
- Satan tempts Jesus to claim God's promises now. How is the ability to wait part of faith? What are you wishing God would do right now that creates a kind of temptation for you?
- The last temptation is a decision to take a shortcut. How do you know when to be expedient or wait for God's plans to be unfold?
- If you had to pick a temptation: doubt God when you are uncomfortable, doubt when you have to wait, or doubt God when you know things could be easier, which would you pick? Why?
- Close your Grow group time by praying for each other and encouraging one another in the tests and trials your group is experiencing.