

Title: Fear Not Temptation

Text: Matthew 4:1-11

Big Idea: Jesus succeeds where I fail.

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.

Temptation is not sin, temptation is an opportunity to do what is right.

Trifecta of vulnerability: alone, tired, hungry.

2 Corinthians 11:14

¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

Lastly, Satan is a liar.

John 8:44

⁴⁴ He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

Matthew 4:3-10

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.’ ”

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.’ ” 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.’ ”

1. Jesus is Tempted -

Hebrews 4:15

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

“And in every one of us, there's a war going on. It's a civil war. I don't care who you are, I don't care where you live, there is a civil war going on in your life. And every time you set out to be good, there's something pulling on you, telling you to be evil.” Martin Luther King Jr.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Temptation #1: would be independent of God the Father

Jesus is tested with the desires of his flesh, instant gratification. Jesus is tempted to gain power over himself.

Temptation #2: Satan quotes Psalm 91:11-12.

Malachi 3:1

Jesus is tested by pride, instant gratification. Jesus is tempted to gain power over the Jews.

Temptation #3:

John 12:31 explains that Satan is the ruler of the world “r”

Jesus is tested by the desire of his eyes, instant gratification. Jesus is tempted to gain power over the kingdoms of the world.

These temptations were similar to how Satan tempted Adam and Eve in the garden.

2. Jesus Resists:

As it is written: he turns to the Word of God for his strength-quotes from the book of Deuteronomy from chapters 6-8,

Deuteronomy 8:3

man does not live by bread alone: Spiritual needs are more important than physical needs.

Our soul needs fuel, you can either give it the word or world,

For the second temptation Jesus quotes

Deuteronomy 6:16

¹⁶ "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah.

The Israelites tested God by making demands of God.

Lastly, Jesus quotes Deut 6:13

Matthew 4:11

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

3. Jesus Succeeds: Jesus quotes scripture, tells the devil to leave and Satan leaves. Jesus triumphed over satan, the demons, &, evil,

As we wait for Jesus' promised return the enemy can have minor victories in our life but he will not have the ultimate victory.

Jesus succeeded where Adam failed, Jesus succeeded where Israel failed, and **Jesus succeeds where I failed.**

Sin is falling short of God's standard in act, thought or character

Robert Mulholland - Invitation to a journey

Outlines 4 layers of sin:

1. **Gross Sins:** murder, violence. abuse
2. **Conscious Sins:** sins that are socially acceptable but not the way of Jesus.
3. **Unconscious Sins:** sins of motivation, where you do the right thing for the wrong reason, not just sins of commission but omission not what we do but what we don't do. Interpersonal relational stuff
4. **Trust Structures:** idols, attachments, our emotional programs for happiness, the things we think we need to live a happy and peaceful life that don't go by the name of Jesus.

Replacing Lies: This why the Word of God is important

Psalm 139:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.

They cannot be numbered!

¹⁸ I can't even count them;

they outnumber the grains of sand!

Replace the lies of Satan with the truth of God's word.

Jesus succeeds where I fail, but on our own, we will fail where Jesus has already succeeded.