

Almighty God, Whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as You know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find You mighty to save; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lent

- Question at the core of all Christian hope: What is the nature of the God I gave my allegiance to?
 - Can I trust Him?
 - *"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."*(Hebrews 4:15)
- Our hope is built on the foundation that Jesus succeeded where we fail.
 - Israel took up idols in the desert, Jesus took up Scripture in the desert.
 - Our righteous activities have no power in themselves, but they are a way of entering into communion with Jesus, Whose faithfulness forgives our past and secures our present and future life with God.
- Discipline: Fasting
 - Prayer opens the hands of God while fasting binds the hands of the enemy.

Luke 4:1-13

- Jesus' preparation (vs 1-2)
 - Filled with the Holy Spirit
 - 40 days of solitude, fasting, combat
 - *Satan's goal with Jesus' life was to prevent Him from suffering.
 - Notice the temptation was not porn, lying, stealing, gossip, murder, etc., but the avoidance of suffering which was the path of obedience for Jesus.
 - *Following that, Satan might do anything to keep you from suffering.
- Stone to bread (vs 3-4)
 - You should have what you want/need.
 - Temptation for control, particularly fleshly control
 - Not bread alone (physical), but every word that comes from God (place of control)
- Worship me (vs 5-8)

- You should get what you deserve/promised without suffering.
- Temptation for comfort, inheritance without participation in the sufferings of Christ
And being found in human form, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in Heaven and on Earth and under the Earth, (Phil 2:8-10)
- Note: Jesus didn't argue - Satan did have that authority.
 - Why would Satan give all that up? Because he knew that ultimate tribute is not to rule all things, but to be admired and treasured above all things.
*Ruling and ownership are glorious, but to be worshiped is an even greater glory.
- Worship God and serve Him alone.
- Throw yourself down (vs 9-12)
 - You should be able to act independently of God, doing things your own way.
 - Temptation for convenience, I have a better way
 - Don't test God. He is the better way.

Devastating deception behind these temptations:

- They are not obvious. With a little creativity, we can easily justify saying "yes."
- Control, comfort, and convenience – they were and still are the primary temptations we face and fall to.

*But we are not our own hope. Jesus is our hope. And Jesus succeeded where we fail.

*There is always more grace in God than sin in me.

Lent is about turning away from our sins and toward the living God. Like Jesus, we must prepare for temptation if we are going to be successful. Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit, and He prepared in solitude, fasting, and combat. When we find ourselves trapped by the idols of control, comfort, and convenience, it is only Jesus Who is able to save and restore us. Restoration is possible, but it will hurt, because removing claws is always painful.

HOME GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

CONNECTION

How are you doing?
What did obedience look like this week?

PASSAGE: LUKE 4:1-13

The Temptation of Jesus

4 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness **2** for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. **3** The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." **4** And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" **5** And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, **6** and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. **7** If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." **8** And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."" **9** And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, **10** for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you," **11** and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" **12** And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" **13** And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

CONVERSATION

What stuck out to you in the passage?
What do you think the Holy Spirit is saying to you?
What do you need to do this week to be obedient?
Is there anyone that you could impact or share with this week?

NEXT WEEK'S PASSAGE: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-8

