

Temptation

Matthew 4:1-11

Welcome back and here we go! Today we start a new series in Matthew! Not much is known about Matthew, other than he lived in Capernaum and was a Tax Collector. Luke tells us about the great feast that he made for Jesus.

Some facts:

- Widely believed that this is the most read book in the history of the world. What a great honor.

1a) By using a Tax Collector to write history's most influential book, what does God teach us about redemption?

1b) How does God use you in ways you don't deserve?

- Originally written in Hebrew. He came back and rewrote it in Greek!
- It uses the terms "Kingdom of God" or "Kingdom of Heaven" 37 times!
- Matthew's Gospel shows Jesus as Messiah! In fact, that is the main thrust!

Today we start with ***Matthew 4:1-11***.

2) What can we learn from ***verse 4:1***?

Why is it important for us to understand that God allows temptation while He Himself does not tempt us? We see Jesus Himself being led away to a place of temptation... after a 40 day fast!

First, He is tempted with food! When we lack basic supplies or what we think we need, we may be tempted to meet our need ourselves!

Food ----- Ego / Pride ----- Power

3) How does the enemy tempt us / you to sin?

For me, I sin in lust / anger primarily. In certain conditions, I am tempted to look twice or react in anger. These are my personal places of weakness and vulnerability. I know my areas. You should know yours. After all.....

You have lived with yourself a LONG time!

The second temptation was in Spiritual relationship. **Verses 5-7.**

4) Have you ever felt like you will get away with something because you belong to God?

Favor with God is not a license to sin.

The third temptation is power and authority. God has given you authority. **Verses 9-10.**

5) How can that authority be abused?

We all obviously have areas of temptation. James talks about it in Chapter 1 of his book.

The idea is we get drawn away.

Matthew 4:11 ----- James 1:12-15 ----- James 4:5-10

6) (Personal) What scripture can you repeat out loud to overcome temptation?

The Word of God (Jesus) is your arsenal.

The first step to victory is confession of sin. Then the filling of the Holy Spirit will follow.

Let's pray.