

Key Texts

Matthew 4:1-11

Thinking & talking through the biblical text during the week helps turn what God is saying into action steps. Here are some questions to get you started.

Reflection Questions

- What questions and comments do you have about the sermon and supporting texts?
- Which personality test(s) have you taken? What are you?

Read Matthew 4:1-11

- Why is character important?
- What are some of the implications of lack of character?
- How would you define character? What is integrity?

For each of the 3 temptations in this passage:

- What was the temptation?
- How did Jesus respond?
- How does the devil tempt us today in similar ways?

Jesus' character was tested by the devil in Matthew 4:1-11

- Why does he preface the temptations with "If you are the Son of God?" (3, 6)

1st test is about the use of power.

- What do we use our power or influence for: for ourselves, or to serve others?
- In what sense is the bread problem a life problem? How did Jesus answer the tempter? What does this mean? (Compare John 6:27, 35)
- Why did Jesus choose not to use his power to make bread when he was hungry? What was his weapon in doing battle with the tempter? (Heb 4:12; Eph 6:17)

2nd test is about how we find God.

- How do you see Jesus at work: in your life, in the world?
- In what respect was the devil's suggestion a temptation for Jesus? How did the tempter try to convince Jesus it was okay for him to do this? When does this temptation come to us? How did Jesus answer the tempter? What can we learn from this answer?

The 3rd test is about how we achieve success

- What are some of the shortcuts to success that we are tempted to take?
- In what way does this temptation fit Jesus' own goals and purpose? Why was the devil's offer tempting to Jesus? How does this temptation come to us? How did Jesus answer? What can we learn from him?