



“Temptation”
Pastor Scott Farmer
Matthew 4:1-11
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Opening remarks

You have been, will be, and are now being tempted. The appeal of temptation is always to satisfy a legitimate need in a wrong way or at a wrong time. It is rooted in a distorting or hiding of the costs or consequences of a sweet start. As the California Health Council’s Super Bowl commercial concluded “lifelong addiction starts sweet.” The good news is that “He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will provide a way out so you can endure it” [I Corinthians 10:13].

Even better, when we have bitten the temptation apple, we know “Jesus was tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” [Hebrews 4:15-16]. There is grace, mercy and help when we have bitten the proverbial apple!

Big Idea: Face your temptations as Jesus faced His.

Warm it up

What is the longest you ever went without eating? How did it feel?

Talk it over

- 1] How important was it for Jesus to be tempted by Satan?
- 2] How would you describe the power struggle going on in this story?
- 3] What do you think was appealing to Jesus about the three temptations?
- 4] What does Jesus encounter with temptation teach us?

Work it out

- 5] When do you find yourself most vulnerable to the tempter?
- 6] What has helped you overcome temptation when it comes?

Wrap it up

Jesus uniquely was tempted in every way just as we are "yet he did not sin." [Hebrews 4:15]

Some of us are not just resisting temptation. We are recovering from the consequences of succumbing to temptation. We have jumped off the cliff, bitten the forbidden fruit, etc. Your sweet start may have turned into chains of addiction, brokenness and distance.

Hear inspired scripture offer, "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

He who raises the dead and offers new life can certainly give you and me a new start. Actually, your crash may lead to your greatest contribution. Be Christ's people to one another as you defend against temptation together.

Pray it through

Pray the Lord's Prayer together. In your mind and spirit apply its truths to your situations.