

FACING TEMPTATION

Matthew 4:1-11

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

1. Looking through these verses, what clues do you have as to what Jesus would have been thinking and feeling?
2. Verse 1 opens at the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry. Why do you think the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil?
3. If there's nothing wrong with being hungry, and there's nothing wrong with bread, then what was the temptation (vv. 3-4)?
4. When we fail to trust God, how can we be tempted to meet legitimate needs in illegitimate ways?
5. In the second temptation (vv. 5-6), was the devil misquoting Scripture, as people often claim? Explain.
6. Jesus responds in verse 7 by quoting Deuteronomy 6:16. How does testing God differ from trusting God?

7. What is wrong with demanding “right now” that God prove his presence, power, or care?

8. In the third temptation, the devil promises to give Jesus “all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor” (vv. 8-9). If Jesus would eventually receive all of these kingdoms anyway, then what was tempting about the devil’s offer?

9. The devil offers us shortcuts in contrast to what Eugene Peterson, quoting a phrase from Friedrich Nietzsche, has called “a long obedience in the same direction.” Why are these shortcuts really spiritual short-circuits?

How do these shortcuts tempt us to bow the knee to Satan—even when that’s not our intention?

10. Throughout this passage, Jesus demonstrates trust, obedience, and true worship. How can we make these our ultimate weapons against the devil’s temptations?