

Sermon Discussion Guide

Encounters with Jesus: Temptation
Matthew 3:16-17, 4:1-11
January 4 & 5, 2020

Part 1: Pray

Every time we study God's word, we should ask God to give us the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts, teach us and mold us into who he created us to be. Ask God to reveal his truth to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases or major themes

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. Adam began this week by addressing how many people don't like acknowledging an evil being. Where have you stood on this idea?
2. How do you define temptation? How would you describe the presence of temptation in your life (sneaky and subtle? plain and obvious?)
3. Adam encouraged us that if we feel temptation then that actually indicates that we are in the fight and that Jesus is with us. Reflect on this idea.

Temptation: Identity

1. Adam said that satan is the great identity thief. What did he mean by this?

2. Why is the changing/affecting of our identity (by Satan) so powerful in our lives? Or, more basically, why is understanding our identity in Jesus so important?
3. The tempters goal is to get us to look to ourselves for the merit of our salvation. Why is this such a dangerous thing to based our identity on?

Temptation: Suffering

1. Suffering is one of the enemy's greatest mediums for temptation. What are we tempted to believe when we face suffering?
2. Has there been a time in your life when your suffering was so great that your cry was: "Do you even care, God?" Share about that experience and what God taught you in it.
3. Adam said that we are not allowed stiff-necked rebellion in our suffering, but that we are allowed honesty, transparency, brokenness and doubt. What does it mean that in all our protesting, we are actually still able to experience God's grace?

Temptation: Glory

1. Personal glory is one our greatest temptations. What makes this temptation so common and what makes it so destructive?
2. Has there been a time/experience in your life when you felt the ultimate disappointment of the personal glory of achievement, success, acclaim, accolades or money?

3. The greatest antidote to temptation is the transformational renewal of our mind by the word of God. How might this be put into practice in your life?

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow him?

*****Bonus Question: Please describe with the group the major changes to the traffic flow and parking starting next week, January 11 and 12.*****