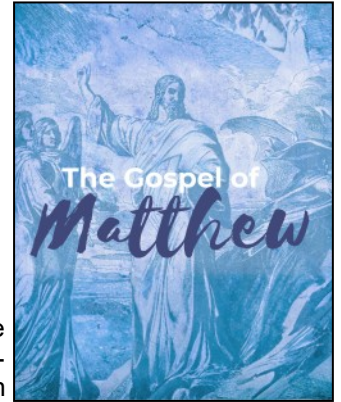


Pastor Jake Magee

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Behind the Temptation
Matthew 3:16-4:11



“¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” ^{4:1} Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said...”

Sons and Daughters Shouldn't Have To...

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Small Group Discussion Guide Behind the Temptation Matthew 3:16-4:11

Getting Started

If you had to choose one of the following for the next six months, which would be the hardest for you? **1) *Doing without something you really want.*** **2) *Waiting for something important that you can't control.*** **3) *Enduring pain that isn't going away anytime soon.*** Why did you choose that one?

Digging Deeper

Read Matthew 3:16-4:11

1. What does the Father declare about Jesus at His baptism, and how does that declaration shape the way we should read the temptations that follow?
2. What common challenge does Satan repeat in the first two temptations (4:3, 6)? What is he trying to make Jesus question?
3. The sermon suggested that all three temptations are really one temptation. Based on the text, what is the deeper temptation underneath the specific temptations involving bread, the temple, and the kingdoms?

Read Matthew 4:1-4 and Deuteronomy 8:1-3

4. Why does Jesus answer Satan by quoting Deuteronomy 8? What lesson was Israel supposed to learn in the wilderness?
5. What does Jesus' response teach us about God's purposes during seasons of need, lack, or disappointment?

Read Matthew 4:5-7

6. How does Satan misuse Scripture in this temptation, and how does Jesus correct him?
7. What is the difference between trusting God and testing God?
8. What are some ways people try to force God's timing rather than waiting for Him?

Read Matthew 4:8-10 and Psalm 2:7-8

9. What is Satan offering Jesus in this temptation, and what part of the Father's plan would Jesus avoid by accepting it?
10. How does Jesus' response demonstrate trust in the Father's plan, even when it involves suffering?
11. Why do you think suffering often tempts believers to question God's goodness?

Making It Real

Read Matthew 7:9-11, Psalm 27:13-14, and Romans 8:31-32

12. What does each of these passages teach us about God's provision, timing, and plan?
13. Which of the three temptations do you find most relatable right now: the temptation to doubt God's provision, God's timing, or God's plan? Why?
14. What truth from these passages can help you trust God more fully in your current circumstances?

Spend time praying for one another to trust God's provision when doing without, God's timing when waiting, and God's plan when suffering.

Resources: www.blueletterbible.org, www.biblehub.com, www.preceptaustin.org