

Christ's Temptation in the Wilderness

A Model for our Lenten Pilgrimage

SHMS Evening of Lenten Reflection

March 10, 2020

Matt 4:1-11: Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to him, “**If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.**” 4 But he answered, “**It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’**” 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to him, “**If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will give his angels charge of you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’**” 7 Jesus said to him, “**Again it is written, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’**” 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; 9 and he said to him, “**All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.**” 10 Then Jesus said to him, “**Begone, Satan! for it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’**” 11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him.

Jas 1:13-14: “Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted with evil and he himself tempts no one; but each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.”

Deut 8:2: “Remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart.”

1 Cor. 10:13: “No temptation/testing has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted/tested beyond your strength, but with the temptation/testing will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

1 Jn 2:16: “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world.”

Questions for Reflection-Discussion

1. How did Jesus meet the temptations that came to him? What did he do? What did he make use of? How do you do with the same kind of temptations? What new approaches can you employ?
2. Can you identify in your experience times when the Spirit has led you “into the wilderness” to be tested? How did things work out? How did the Lord act through this testing to make you stronger in him?
3. Of the three temptations that Jesus faced, which one is the greatest challenge for you? Consider how you can arm yourself in the future, and call upon the Lord in prayer to be your deliverance, and to strengthen you so that you can stand faithful (as Christ did) in the face of that temptation.