



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE



LENT - WEEK I

“THE TEMPTATION”

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PRAYERS	DISCUSSION
<p><u>CONNECTION:</u></p> <p>Church Plant Potluck This Saturday the 28th from 3-7 PM. If you are interested in the plant and would like to know more, please come to this meeting. There will be lots of food and vision meeting that will explain some of what will be involved for the people who join. RSVP to Jay (simmonsjayd@gmail.com).</p> <p>Hill House Concert Friday March 6th at 7 PM with Christa Wells and Nashville singer-songwriter, Jessica Campbell. Reception with refreshments at 7 PM followed by the concert at 8 PM. RSVP to David Lutes (dlutes@allsaintsaustin.org).</p> <p>Joint Young Adult Retreat March 14-15th, 2015 with PCA churches from Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio. Glenn Hoburg of Grace PCA in Washington DC will be our speaker. Cost is \$95. Sign up www.allsaintsaustin.org/young-adults-ministry.</p> <p><u>REQUESTS:</u></p> <p>Emptying Our Lives to be Filled with God’s Word How are you seeking to be filled with God and his Word more fully during Lent? What practices are you taking on and/or what are you giving up so that your life is more open to God?</p>	<p>INTRO <i>(Question:)</i> What comes to mind when you think of repentance? How is repentance an act of faith? <i>(Transition:)</i> Repentance is an act of faith because in it we turn from filling ourselves with the things of this world over/against God, and turn to diligently seek God and his ways. We turn away from fulfillment which is often immediate, easy and tangible, to the realm of promise which is, in many ways, delayed, difficult and invisible now.</p> <p>We have entered the season of Lent. This time is focused on repentance—on the desire to be changed and the practices which help us turn from sin and toward God. As we read our text be thinking about these questions: “How does God deal with sin? How should this inform our dealings with sin?”</p> <p>READ the text aloud.</p> <p>DISCUSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why might it be important for us to understand the methods of Satan? • What strikes you as interesting in the order of events in our text? What is your response to verse 1 of chapter 4? How does this inform your understanding of the role of the Spirit, the nature of the Christian life, and/or the mission of Jesus? • Why might Satan tempt Jesus at this point of his life? Why does Satan choose to confront Jesus immediately after his baptism? • We will look at the three temptations individually. With what does Satan tempt Jesus first? What is unique about this temptation? How does this temptation parallel Eve’s? How does Satan tempt us in our weaknesses? • What is unique about the second temptation? How does this temptation parallel Eve’s? Why is this temptation particularly powerful? • How can we be especially prone to succumb to temptation in our areas of strength? • Why is putting God to the test forbidden? What is wrong with asking God to prove his love for us? How are you tempted to do this in your own life? • What is Satan offering Jesus in the third temptation? Why might this offer be attractive to Jesus? How would this path have differed in pattern and result from the mission that the Father gave him? • Satan attempted to get Jesus to doubt God’s <i>provision</i>, force him to <i>prove</i> his love, and to reject God’s <i>path</i>. Which of these three types of temptation do you most struggle against? • This will be somewhat obvious, but it is worth stating aloud: what is the constant in all of Jesus’ responses? What does this tell us of Jesus’ view of human life and the fight against sin and temptation? <p>CONCLUDE Jesus faces Satan head on, just like Adam and Eve did in the garden. The deceiver tried to cast doubt on God’s character so that the Second Adam might turn away from God and toward self or Satan. By continuing to respond with God’s Word, Jesus rejects sinful interpretations of reality and places his faith in God’s. He even responded with such resolve during a time of utter weakness—at the end of a 40 day fast in the wilderness. Let us follow him by emptying our lives so that we might fill ourselves with God’s Word, and resist the lies of the deceiver by naturally responding with God’s truth.</p>

MATTHEW 3:13-4:11

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

[3:13] Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by [John]...[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 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 comes 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 command his angels concerning 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 put the Lord your God to the test.'" [8] Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. [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, "Be gone, 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 were ministering to him.