

The Wilderness We Still Walk_101225_Outline

Text: Matthew 4:1–11

Big Idea: Every age faces the same three temptations in the wilderness: survive without trust, perform for applause, seize power without worship. But Jesus shows us the only faithful way through.

1. Stones Into Bread: Trusting God Over Survival Instincts

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” **Matthew 4:1-4 (NIV)**

Personal applications: Obey the last clear word God spoke even if your circumstances are difficult.

2. The Leap from the Temple: Resist Spectacle and Refuse to Test God

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Matthew 4:5-7 (NIV)

“Such were some of you. But you were washed. You were sanctified. You were justified.” **1Corinthians 6:11 (NKJV)**

Personal application: Let Scripture lead you rather than using verses to bully God into performing.

3. The Kingdoms at a Price: Worship God Alone and Reject Shortcut Power

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it

is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. **Matthew 4: 8-11 (NIV)**

Closing

"You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You." – **Augustine**