

Sinful Attraction

3-16-25

I. Led by the Spirit into the Wilderness (Matthew 4:1)

- Testing is a part of God's plan.
- Jesus endured real temptations. (Luke 22:41-44; Hebrews 4:14-16)

II. The First Temptation: Turning Stones to Bread (Matthew 4:3-4)

- Satan challenged Jesus' identity and tempted him to satisfy his desires.
- Jesus pointed out that obeying God's will is more important than satisfying our own personal desires. (Deuteronomy 8:1-3)

III. The Second Temptation: Testing God's Protection (Matthew 4:5-7)

- Satan used scripture out of context to tempt Jesus. (Psalm 91:11-12)
- Jesus pointed out that we don't manipulate God by testing his faithfulness. (Deuteronomy 6:16)

IV. The Third Temptation: The Shortcut to Power (Matthew 4:8-11)

- Satan offered power in exchange for worship.
- Jesus rebuked Satan and reminded him that only God deserves to be worshiped. (Deuteronomy 6:13)
- **The easy way out is not always the right way out.**

V. How to Overcome Temptation

- Remember that God is not the source of temptation. (James 1:13-15)
- Resist the devil and draw close to God. (James 4:7-8; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 4:4)
- Rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 6:10-11; 2 Corinthians 10:4-6; Romans 8:11)
- Lean on the Word of God. (John 8:31-32; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Satan wants us to think that we must fight temptation on our own, but the truth is we are never alone. God is with us.