

## Tests to Strengthen You!



**READ:** Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup>"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."<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup>"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

<sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

**REFLECT:** What are some of the greatest tests you have faced?

How are you preparing for the tests that WILL come in the next few days... the next weeks... the next 12 months?

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1

**1<sup>st</sup> Test:** The Tempter appeals to our...

<sup>7</sup>"Ask and it will be given to you;  
seek and you will find;  
knock and the door will be opened to you.

<sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives;  
the one who seeks finds;  
and to the one who knocks,  
the door will be opened.

<sup>9</sup>"Which of you, if your son asks for bread,  
will give him a stone?"

<sup>10</sup>Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? <sup>11</sup>If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

<sup>12</sup>So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you,  
for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.  
Matthew 7:7-12



Where are you being tempted and tested in this area right now?

**2<sup>nd</sup> Test:** The Tempter appeals to our desire for \_\_\_\_\_

What can we learn from the first few steps of the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous?

12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

**3rd Test:** The Tempter appeals to our need for... \_\_\_\_\_

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“Glory” (Greek: Doxa) = honor, your intrinsic worth, a position of authority, beauty, grandeur.

**RESPOND:** How does 1 Corinthians 10:13 help you in the tests & temptations you are facing?

“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to humanity.  
And God is faithful;  
he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.  
But when you are tempted,  
he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”

**Respond & Apply:** Individual & Small Group Discussion Guide

One of the the first things that James writes in his Epistle is this...

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,  
whenever you face trials of many kinds,  
<sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.  
<sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete,  
not lacking anything. James 1:2-4

What ongoing trials or testing are you facing that has been hard to endure?

Are you experiencing “joy” in the midst of your own trials?

A few paragraphs later James writes...

<sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. James 1:22-25

How does “intently looking into the perfect law that gives freedom”, help you in your walk with Jesus?

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**Next Week:** *A Special Memorial Day Service*  
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NewDay Envisioning Our Ministry Values

1. We are a community that has a passion to serve others.
2. We are a community that longs for deeper life relationships  
With God and others.
3. We are passionate about investing in children, youth, and families.
4. We are a people who have a desire to be led by and experience  
the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life.

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