

# DEEPER ROOTS

March 4- March 10

## Planting Seeds: Read Matthew 4:1-11, Matthew 3:13-17

As we prepare for Easter, by looking at the Temptations of Jesus, we remember that right before Jesus was led into the wilderness, He was baptized in the Jordan. And while He was being baptized, a voice spoke from heaven saying, "This is my son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased." It is then striking that later, when the enemy comes to tempt to Jesus, that he comes accusing Jesus, "If you are the Son of God..." Satan is implying that if Jesus does not give into temptation, it is because He is not able to, He is not powerful enough, He doesn't have the right identity. This is a regular tactic of Satan's. When he comes to tempt us, he attacks our pride, our sense of identity, he causes us to question ourselves. This is the same thing that he did in the garden with Adam and Eve. He came asking questions, "Did God really say?" And then he caused them to question their identity, their power, their ability. This is what Satan wants. This is how he chooses to operate. But Jesus doesn't take the bait. Jesus doesn't reply in pride or in confusion. He speaks the truth clearly. As we encounter temptation, it is important that we are prepared. It is necessary that we already know the truth and have planned how we will respond before the enemy can question and confuse us. **What are some regular patterns of sin in your life? How does the enemy cause you to question yourself, before leading you into sin? What truths can you prepare and memorize to help you combat patterns of sin?**

## Digging Deep: Read Matthew 4:1-11, 1 Corinthians 10

In 1 Corinthians 10, we see Paul wrestling with the idea of temptation in the flesh. Verses thirteen and fourteen have been constant sources of encouragement and challenge to Christians throughout history as they struggle against temptation. But before this, we have Paul reminding us of the Israelites in the wilderness who saw all these amazing miracles and works of God, and yet they still succumbed to temptation. We can have great knowledge of God, great faith in God, and still fall to temptation. After this comes an argument being made against eating food that has been sacrificed to idols. Paul reminds the Corinthians that they are free to eat and drink, the food doesn't belong to the idols, because the idols aren't real. The food belongs to God, and God wants them to enjoy His good gifts. But if eating the food will harm someone else's faith it is not worth it. We often practice discipline, not for ourselves but for others. **How does this chapter challenge you to grow in resisting temptation?**

Pioneer Drive Baptist Church wants you to grow in The Word during the week of 3.4-3.10.24. Planting Seeds is a quick devotional and Digging Deep is a more robust study for you, your family, or your group. If you have questions or feedback, please email [Terence@pioneerdrive.org](mailto:Terence@pioneerdrive.org).