

DEEPER ROOTS

March 18- March 24

Planting Seeds: Read Matthew 4:1-11

Satan at every opportunity wants to oppose the mission and work of Jesus. This is his nature; this is his identity. He is going to push back and fight against good and righteousness. This is what he does. We don't like to talk about the idea of having a spiritual enemy, we don't like to believe that there is really an evil force at work in the world and in our lives. Yet, there is. And even when God Himself came to earth to accomplish His work, Satan tried to directly tempt and oppose Him. The audacity of our enemy in this moment should not be overlooked. Satan tried to tempt Jesus, he is going to try to tempt you. And after Jesus resisted the first temptation, Satan offered a second. And after Jesus resisted the second temptation, Satan offered a third. We will face temptation in this life. When we resist once, we will be tempted a second time, we will be tempted a third time, our spiritual enemy will not cease. We need to be prepared to say no, often, repeatedly. **What tactics and techniques help you to resist temptation when Satan opposes you? How do you find the perseverance to keep saying no when you've resisted once and you're still being tempted?**

Digging Deep: Read Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 9:23-26

In the last temptation that we look at, Satan offers all the kingdoms of this earth to Jesus, if He will just bow down and worship Satan. Satan is trying to tempt Jesus with power. The allure of power and control on this earth is very appealing to many of us. We like to be in control, we want to be in control, and we want to be in control of more and more. Once we have control in one domain, we are not content, until we have more power over other domains. But power, like all sin, is a lie. We don't really have the power that we believe that we do. We can think that we are in control, but this is an illusion, it is fleeting and temporary and at any moment, something can happen that will prove that we don't have the power that we think we do. Seeking temporary power is not as valuable as seeking eternal life and peace. Jesus teaches in Luke 9, that gaining influence in this world is not worth the sacrifice that is required to achieve it. Instead, we should spend our time and life building our soul, forming ourselves in the model of Jesus, seeking Him, and make sacrifices for righteousness. **When you seek earthly gain, how do you notice loss to your soul? What can you do this week to seek the way of Jesus instead of the way of this world?**

Pioneer Drive Baptist Church wants you to grow in The Word during the week of 3.18-3.24.24. 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.