

Take Away – Soul Trek: Crave the Word

Text: Matthew 4:1-11

Date: 11-7-21



With your group...

Answer each of the following questions prompted by the text and today's sermon.

1. Define the word "crave".
2. React to: "We neglect to thwart Satan's temptations with the one weapon (God's Word) that always wins the war. We often fight Satan's temptation using an inferior weapon - our own will power."
3. Discuss the pros and cons of each mode of communication listed below:
 - a) Verbal speech
 - b) Body language/facial expressions
 - c) Texting
 - d) Emails
 - e) Hand-written letters
4. Read Jeremiah 30:2, Luke 1:3, Deuteronomy 31:24, and Joshua 24:26. What does the Bible say about the written word?
5. In what ways are we to "crave" the Word of God?
6. Read Matthew 4: 1 – 4. What can we learn from this interchange between Satan and Jesus?
7. The phrase, "it is written", is in the Bible 80 times (in 80 verses). Why is it included so much?
8. React to: "The only way through "the Wall" is to do the difficult work and let Jesus change you. This is the Inner Journey. The Inner Journey isn't about finding strength from within. No, the Inner Journey is discovering your identity - we hear the Father's voice, "You are mine. You are my child. You are loved. You are not defined by your disease, disaster, or times you have disappointed me. Your identity is rooted in who I claim you to be."
9. The Inner Journey is not a license to be lazy. This does not mean we sit idly by and hope that the Spirit works in us. This stage still calls us to actively put ourselves in positions to be transformed by God's Spirit. If you are wrestling with the Wall, or working through the Wall, how can actively engaging in each of the following be helpful?
 - Have patience with your emotions. Have patience with the emotions of others.
 - Confess sins to a friend. (The practice of confession and absolution is powerful.)
 - Give empathy.
 - Pray Scripture. (Let King David's laments from the Psalms be your words.)

With your kids...

With the children in your small group, commit to discussing each of the following 4 ideas about how to guide them through hard times (taken from kidsfaithcrate.com):

10. What does it mean to “crave” something?
11. In what ways should we “crave” the Word of God?
12. Read Matthew 4: 1 – 4. What can we learn from this interchange between Satan and Jesus?

Diving Deeper...

For a deeper dive this week, read Matthew 4: 1 – 11 and then discuss each of the following questions.

13. How do you see the baptism of Jesus (especially the declaration of His sonship) and His temptation in the wilderness linked? In what way is the Holy Spirit involved in both?
14. Do you think it is true that where there is spiritual baptism that there is also spiritual battle? What examples from your own life could you share?
15. What is temptation? How would you describe it simply to a child or someone who isn't a Christian?
16. Is being tempted a sin?
17. When identifying the enemy – the devil – how dangerous is it to either over-believe or underbelieve in his existence?

On your own...

For your individual study this week, think and pray about each of the following questions.

18. How is temptation a struggle for you? When have you had specific times during which temptation was more of a problem? Why was this the case and how did you respond to it?
19. Do you ever find yourself being tempted in the same way over and over again? Why do you think this is the case?
20. Reading verses 3-9 again, identify the three key ways in which the devil tempted Jesus. What is at the heart of each of these temptations?
21. How do we see the same type of temptations manifest in our lives?
22. How might you better equip ourselves with the Word of God so that you are ready to respond in the face of temptation?