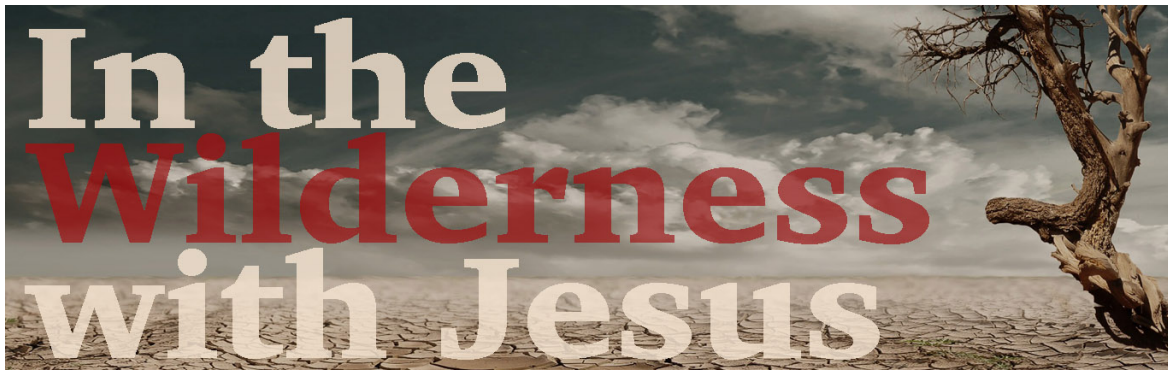


Sunday 3/4 - Saturday 3/10



In the Wilderness with Jesus - Temptation 3:

"Bow down and worship me and all this will be yours."

by:Elder Jake Woods

Warm-Ups (15 min)

If your group has more than 7 people, you're encouraged to split into men's and women's groups for "Warm Ups". Also, it often works better to go around the circle three times instead of each person having to answer all three questions at once.

1. Share a high and a low from your week.
2. What is the best performance or concert you have ever attended?
3. What made the event so special?
4. What temptation is tough for you to resist?

Large Group Prayer (10 min)

Take turns praying (1) Thanksgivings, (2) for each other's needs, and (3) for our community. **Click here** (</index.php/component/content/?id=181&Itemid=1627>) for creative ideas on how to pray as a group.

1. Pray for individual needs, things we are thankful for, and our community.
2. Pray for Pastor Andrew Farhat as their family moves to Denver.
3. Pray for Pastor AJ, the team and the community around Renewal Church to hear the Gospel.
4. Pray for those who live with temptations that they think are too big to resist.

Study Questions (35 min)

About the Sermon

Read Matthew 4:8-10

1. In this final temptation, Satan tried to entice Jesus to worship him in exchange for all the kingdoms of the world.
 - a. How did Jesus respond?
 - b. How do we often respond to temptation in our own lives?
2. In addition to promising Jesus the kingdoms of the world, Satan tempted Jesus to deviate from his God-given mission to go to the cross and overcome sin and death.
 - a. Have you ever been tempted to take an easier road than the one you believe God is leading you down?
 - i. Why is the path of least resistance so tempting?
 - ii. Why is the path of least resistance often the wrong path?

3. Read John 12:27-28

- a. Jesus was candid about being deeply troubled by the weight of his mission which was soon to be fulfilled. Does His reaction tell us anything about how Jesus is able to empathize with our humanity and our susceptibility to temptation?
- b. While Jesus admitted He was deeply troubled He still embraced His true mission and overcame temptation.
 - According to the passage how did He stay true to His purpose?
 - How can this same understanding of God's calling in our lives help us stay true to our own purpose?

A Deeper Look

Read Ephesians 6:10-18

1. According to verse 10, where does our power to stand against temptation and sin come from?
2. A broad knowledge of God's word equips us to stand against our own sinful nature, the world, and spiritual forces of darkness. God has overcome sin and sends the Holy Spirit to empower us to win the battle as well. Describe all the pieces of armor God supplies to equip us for the battle:
 - a. Belt
 - b. Breastplate
 - c. Shoes
 - d. Shield
 - e. Helmet
 - f. Sword
3. According to verse 18 what role does prayer play in the battle?
4. How does verse 18 connect to verse 10?

Life Application

1. As Pastor Michael talked about in his sermon, we need to react to temptation the same way we would react to a fire burning in our house – with urgency, decisiveness, and complete resolve to put out the fire.
 - a. How might our battles with sin look differently if we treated temptation like a fire that has the potential to destroy the things most important to us such as our relationships with family members or friends?
2. Oftentimes remembering God's word in the moment of temptation can be the difference between giving in to the temptation or overcoming the temptation. God's word is the fire-extinguisher.
 - a. What are some practical ways to make God's word more readily available in the fight against temptation?
 - b. Discuss the following ideas with your group and/or other strategies you've found for making God's word readily available:
 - i. Daily study of scripture through a devotional, podcast, or other means to foster a broad working knowledge of God's word.
 - ii. Posting verses in places around your house you see on a daily basis (e.g. some athletes put posters or phrases in their bedrooms – "higher, faster, stronger," as a daily reminder of who they are and how they should train. How much more so should we let the word of God saturate our lives.)
 - iii. Scripture memory of verses that remind us of the truth about what God has accomplished for us and who we are in Christ.

Discipleship Trios (25 min) The goal is to have intentional time to share your journey with

others. **Break into same-gender groups of three and move to separate spaces.** If numbers necessitate flexibility, form groups of 2 instead.

- *Review the listener commitments* (/images/LIFEGroup_Documents/Study%20Support%20Downloads/listener_commitments.pdf) if you haven't done so in a while.
- *The goal is not to pressure others into sharing more than they want to, or to give unsolicited advice, but to ask others how God is stretching them, be challenged by God's Word together, ask what others are planning to do about their growth areas, and ask how you can support them!*

Share Your Journey: What have you heard from God through your Life Journal / Bible readings this week? What's an area of your life in which you know you need to repent and/or grow?

- *If you need additional accountability questions, try pulling from this list (/images/LIFEGroup_Documents/Study%20Support%20Downloads/20170521_Accountability_Qs.pdf) or the accountability questions in this doc (<http://toddengstrom.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/LTG-Overview-Formatted.pdf>) in order to spark reflection and discussion.*
- *When you hear a confession, you're encouraged to speak God's forgiveness!*
- *If you feel one of your group members is blind to something, (1) think about whether or not you're the right person to bring it up, (2) ask permission to share something, (3) phrase it as a question.*

Discipleship Trio Prayer Time

- Share: How do you see the Lord speaking to you in the last few weeks? What is he saying?
- Share any personal struggles in your life, how can we pray for you? Pray for yourself to be a person who can share His grace.
- Where do you see the Lord working in the life of others especially a non-Christian and how could you come alongside of them?
- Pray for each other.

Optional Worship Song (+5 min)

1. If you'd like, you can sing a worship song as a group. Don't have a musician? Sing along to a lyric video: SJDenver.org/Songs (/songs)
 - a. *Advent/Christmas songs can be found at SJDenver.org/ChristmasSongs (/christmassongs)*

Serve Our City

1. Has your group planned an opportunity to serve our city for this semester? Click Here for a list of Service Ideas! (</images/Serve.pdf>)

Feedback

1. Was there a glitch in today's material? Want to request a song? Do you have a suggestion? Click Here! (<http://goo.gl/forms/FQVVxQgpAQ>)