

Talk it Over: This Changes EVERYTHING, Week 2

June 11-12, 2022

Looking back at the message this weekend, what was the key thought for you?

Key Scripture

Matthew 4:1 -14

Additional Scriptures:

John 1:29, Mark 10:45, John 12:25

Key Thoughts

Temptation is an invitation to embrace our self-interest.

Jesus came to introduce something brand new to the world.

New Covenant

New Commandment

New Movement

Diablos = slanderer/accuser

Peirazo = tester/inquisitor

Satanas = enemy/adversary

Power/wealth is not primarily for the benefit of the powerful/wealthy.

Start Talking

Check in with one another. Ask how everyone is doing.

(If you're working through the talk it over as an individual, reach out to someone to check in with them and share how you are doing.)

What stuck out to you from the message this week?

Start Thinking

Troy said that often the pursuit of indulging our self-interests ends up hurting ourselves and others. What are some examples of that?

Jesus takes that another step further, saying, "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

Therefore, Pastor Troy said that if we live a self-centered life, we end up not only hurting ourselves, but losing ourselves. How does living a self-centered life lead to a losing of self? (Consider not only eternity, but also our identity)

Troy talked about how in those days, writing things down was a big deal. Things had to have been important enough to have been written down, and because of that, written words carried some weight and authority. How might that affect how you read the Bible?

Read John 1:29-34. Why was it important for Jesus to be baptized before going to the desert to be tempted?

Troy said this isn't just a story about how to overcome temptation, that this was an epic battle, foundational to the rest of Jesus' story, because Satan understood the new thing Jesus was coming to bring.

Why/how is this foundational to the rest of Jesus' story? Why was Satan trying so hard to keep Jesus from what he came to bring and what he came to do?

Troy pointed out how Jesus' hunger is important because it speaks to his being human. Like us, he was subject to being hungry, tired, and weak. How might that encourage us in the face of temptation?

Throughout his life, Jesus resisted every temptation to wield His power for Himself, even though he had the right, the power, and the authority to do so. What does that mean for us, as his followers?

Start Sharing

Satan essentially told Jesus, if you're the Son of God, prove it. But Jesus refused to prove it. He didn't try to do anything to defend the truth of who He was in the face of his identity being challenged or questioned. Why didn't he feel the need to defend himself or prove himself? How can we resist the temptation to defend or prove ourselves when who we are is questioned or challenged?

Troy said that by using scripture to tempt Jesus, the devil is doing what we are often tempted to do - trying to use God to fulfill our own desires, trying to manipulate God or wielding our faith as though it's a magic wand. Sometimes we can look at it like a formula. "If I do x, God will do y." Or "If I use these magic words, my prayer will come true." How can we pray in faith without falling into these traps of thinking we can get what we want by through "name it, claim it" or trying to manipulate God? How can remembering that God is a perfect heavenly Father who knows what

we need and gives good gifts help us to approach him in a better way?

Troy talked about how even the poorest in our community are among the wealthiest in the world. How can we better leverage our power and wealth for the benefit of others?

Satan told Jesus, all of this could be yours if you just bow down and worship me. Consider the story of Adam and Eve from Genesis 3. Compare and contrast how Adam and Eve were tempted in the garden with the story of Jesus being tempted in the desert. What can we learn from looking at those stories side by side?

The Greek uses three different words to refer to Satan in this passage: Diablos (slanderer/accuser), Peirazo (tester/inquisitor), and Satanas (enemy/adversary). How might it be helpful for us to consider all three of these distinct terms when considering how the enemy seeks to tempt us?

Jesus resisted temptation through scripture, the power of the Spirit, and standing on the truth of who God is and his own identity. How can those same things help us to resist temptation? Can we resist temptation without them?

Start Praying

Pray that God would help us to resist the temptation to embrace our self-interests and make everything about us, serve our own interests, etc.



Pray that God would help us to have eyes to see how we can better leverage our power and wealth for the benefit of others.

Start Doing

This week, be on the lookout for moments where you feel tempted to indulge your self-interests and seek to resist that temptation with the God's help.

If you haven't already, consider signing up for a summer group at www.findasccgroup.com