



We are in week five of a series called “Jesus According to Matthew.” In this series, we are taking a long, slow walk through the book of Matthew. As we unpack what Matthew wrote about the life of Jesus, we will explore what Jesus would say about our world, our culture, and each of our lives. If you weren’t able to hear the sermon this weekend, check it out at firstdecatour.org/jesusaccordingtomatthew

WEEK 5: TEMPTATION

This weekend, Pastor Wayne discussed the Temptation of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 4:1-11. He talked about how the Devil tempted Jesus with three types of temptation that we each experience on a regular basis. He also talked about how when we give into temptation, we settle for second best instead of trusting that God has our best interest in mind and doing the hard work to overcome the struggle.



OPENING CONVERSATION

As we begin this week, take a moment to answer these questions:

- ▶ What is one of the strangest things you have ever seen?

- ▶ Pastor Wayne shared the story of the wild turkeys living in Boston. He talked about the idea that these turkeys are not living up to their potential because they are missing out on what it means to be a turkey in the wild. He related that idea to what happens when each of us gives into temptation. Essentially, when we give into temptation, we trade the pursuit of being who we were designed to be for something easy and unfulfilling. Without using names, describe how you have seen that play out in your life or the life of someone you know.



BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

Read **MATTHEW 4:1-11**

Jesus was led into the wilderness just like the Hebrew people were when God freed them from slavery. While the Hebrew people failed to obey, Jesus prevailed and resisted the Devil's temptations. Here we see Matthew including a detail that would communicate to his readers that Jesus came to do what they had been unable to do. Once more, Matthew was communicating to his readers that Jesus is the promised Messiah.

As Pastor Wayne said this weekend, the temptations that Jesus encountered are temptations we all experience. He talked about how these temptations represent the "stuff" we desire, our propensity to focus on ourselves, and our drive for power. Ultimately, each of the temptations we experience falls into one of these categories. He went on to talk about how generosity, servanthood, and worship of God can overcome these areas of temptation.

- ▶ Why can temptation be such a powerful force in our lives? How have you experienced that?

- ▶ Jesus resisted the Devil's temptations by quoting scripture. Why do you think Jesus did that? Have you ever tried that in your personal life? If so, how did it go?

- ▶ Pastor Wayne talked about how Oral Roberts used to encourage young men to stay away from gold, glory, and girls. As you look at the world around you, what areas of temptation seem to have the strongest hold on people? Why do you think that is?

- ▶ Of the three areas of temptation (stuff, self, and power), which is simplest for you to give into? Why? How would generosity, servanthood, or worship of God help you address this area in your life?



FURTHER DISCUSSION

- ▶ Satan referred to Jesus as the Son of God. Consistently when that title is used, it is in reference to the atoning sacrifice of Jesus. Look back over the passage again. Why is it significant that Satan used this title?

- ▶ As you think about this passage, the sermon, and the conversation so far, why do you think Matthew included this account in his Gospel? List a few reasons this passage matters to the overall account of Jesus.
- ▶ As you reflect on this passage, what is one action step you would like to take in your life? Why does that action step matter? What is at stake if you don't make that step?



PRAYER

As you close your time, take time to pray.

- ▶ Pray for this series, that the words and life of Jesus would transform us. Pray that God would use this series to make each of us, and our congregation, more like his Son.
- ▶ Ask God for the strength to trust in the hope and power of the cross when it comes to temptation.
- ▶ This past weekend, the congregation was asked to turn in a prayer card regarding a temptation they are facing. Please pray for all of these individuals who are struggling with temptation right now.