

LENT

HOLY ANTICIPATION

Key Scriptures

Matthew 4.1-11 // Mark 1.12-13 // Luke 4.1-13

Key Points

1. Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
2. Do not put the Lord your God to the test. 3. Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.

Grow DEEPER

Hebrews 4.15 // Ephesians 6.17

Live DEEPER

Prior to beginning His ministry, Scripture tells us Jesus was, "... led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting 40 days and 40 nights, He was hungry." This scene relays the depths of Jesus' humanity, and His relation of having experienced everything you and I have experienced; including temptation. Matthew describes how Jesus was confronted by the Tempter, Satan, and was tempted to use His power to meet His own needs, instead of relying on God (v3). He was tempted to try to leverage His authority over the angels to manipulate the outcome of a situation (v5-6). And He was tempted to buy into the lie of gaining the world if He would only bow and worship Satan (v9). In each instance Satan attacked Jesus using Scripture; twisting it to suit his needs, and desires. And each time Jesus refuted or opposed Satan by using the Scriptures in the light God intended it to be used; for His glory. The temptations Jesus faced was real. His struggle in those moments was real. But so was His resolve to honor, and worship God.

What does this have to do with Lent?

The Lenten season is a time of remembering who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Remembering His 40 days of fasting and temptation, remembering His sacrifice, and His crucifixion. It is marked by the 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter Sunday, and historically is used to shift our hearts and minds to focus our lives more on Him through prayer, fasting, asking for forgiveness, and giving to those in need. It begins on Ash Wednesday- called so, as ashes from the previous year's Palm Sunday branches are placed on the forehead in the shape of a cross, with the reminder to "repent and believe," or "from dust you are, and to dust you shall return." The Lent season ends with Holy Week- the week prior to Easter Sunday- and the celebration of the Resurrection. The word Lent comes from the Old English word *lenten*, meaning spring. It signifies the anticipation of new life, and the rebirth of life on earth out of the death of winter.

Look DEEPER

Do you feel defeated because you face temptation? Take heart, Jesus knows how you feel, and He welcomes you to, "Come follow Me."

Love DEEPER

Maybe you need a reset. Your life is a little sideways and you could use a catalyst to set your trajectory back towards Jesus. You don't have to wait for a holiday or special occasion to move towards Him, but what a beautiful way to start Lent.