The temptations of Jesus

Questions:

1. Read Matthew 4:1-4. When was the last time you feel really hungry? What is more in life beyond eating and drinking and satisfying desire of our flesh? Where do you find your answers?
2. Read V5-7. When are we easily tempted to test God? How did the Israelites test God in Deu 6:16 and Exo 17:7? How can we avoid repeating the same fault?
3. Read V8-11. In what way I might worship the world not-knowingly? How can the victory of Christ help me triumph over those temptations?
4. Why would a place like the wilderness help us discern the temptations from the devil and the world? Tell people your plan in Lent to walk through the wilderness with Christ in fasting, reading God’s word and prayers.

==== Sermon notes ===

(page 1) The Temptation of Christ 2019-03-10

Emptied for fullness

(page 2) The temptations are made clear in the wilderness

Mat 4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

1. In the clear simplicity of the desert, away from all the familiar distractions, the conflict becomes an open one: the devil is exposed.
2. When you and the temptations are separated
   1. For 40 days

(page 3) Do I think life is all about eating and drinking?

Mat 4:3 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” 4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

1. Fast is so hard
2. Plain bread is so hard
3. Fasting let us know life is lot more than bread
   1. Giving helps us understand life is more than fear of lack

(page 4) Do I test God to gain what I want?

Mat 4:5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” 7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

1. Devil knows God’s word
2. Two kinds of people know God’s word well
   1. The ones who love Him
   2. The ones who love to overtake him
3. God’s word needs to be received as the purpose and context
   1. Deu 6:16 Do not put the Lord your God to the test as you did at Massah.
   2. Exo 17:7 And he called the place Massah (testing) and Meribah (quarrelling) because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”
4. God’s word is read in light of who God is
   1. Not what I want from God
   2. How not to? Read constantly in worshipping Him.

(page 5) Do I bow down and worship the world?

Mat 4:8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” 10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

1. There is no “If you are the Son of God”
2. There is no “It is written”
3. Perhaps devil’s last draw was to speak to the humanity of Jesus
   1. Look just right now- here
   2. I have everything today and you can have it(though temporarily)
   3. Be the king of the world beats dying on the cross naked
4. Did we make that choice as well?
5. Again, it is written

(page 6) This Lent, let the Spirit lead you into the wilderness in victory

* Fast
* Read (the Scripture)
* Pray

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