



Key References:

Luke 4:1–15 (ESV)

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry.³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”⁴ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’”⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time,⁶ and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.”⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”⁸ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, “ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’ ”

⁹ And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,¹⁰ for it is written,

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’

¹¹ and “ ‘On their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

¹² And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

¹⁴ And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.¹⁵ And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

Father Maximos’ Stages of Temptation:

1 - Assault; 2 - Interaction; 3 - Consent; 4 - Captivity; 5 – Obsession

1 – PURPOSE IN THE WILDERNESS

Read Luke 4:1-2 and Hebrews 2:14-18. **What does Hebrews 2:17-18 reveal about the purpose of Jesus’ battle with the devil here?**

2 – TEMPTATIONS OF JESUS

Read Luke 4:3-4. **Why was it OK of Jesus to feed the 5,000 or turn water into wine but not create bread for himself? What more does Deuteronomy 8:3 reveal about Jesus’ answer to the devil? What is our version of this temptation?**

Read Luke 4:5-13. **How were the next two temptations of Jesus really corrupt shortcuts and a twisting of God’s promises? How are we offered similar temptations?**

3 – OUR TEMPTATIONS

When we ourselves get tempted do these comes from the devil?

Andrew mentioned three areas that temptations come from: The World, The Flesh, and The Devil (demonic). **What is different about how each of these tempts us?**

Andrew gave 5 stages to the process of temptation, read them on the left. **Why did Andrew say that sin only begins at stage 3? What did stage 1 and 2 look like for Jesus?**

What are stages 4 and 5, how do they work and why are they so dangerous? How does Galatians 5:1 speak to this?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. **What “ways of escape” do we most often miss? How are cycles of sin broken? How can you seek help in these times?**

Why did Andrew recommend studying Romans 8 this week?

4 – OUR WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

On Sunday we were reminded that Adam & Eve hid themselves from God after they succumbed to temptation. **How then does our current isolation due to the pandemic play into the enemies hand? How can we seek community when we struggle with temptation?**

What are the temptations of a church stuck in the wilderness?