

Dig Deeper @Home – “Kingdom Come”
Complement to sermon on 12/30/2018 – “Tested”

ICE BREAKER – ask these to open discussion and to learn more about those gathered

1. When was the last time someone told you they were “well pleased” with something you did?
2. What are you “tempted” by that is either fattening or expensive?

MEMORIZE – Matthew 21: 42-44

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’ Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

READ – Read Matthew 3:13-4:11

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life?
3. As you read the account of Jesus baptism, (3:13-17) why did Jesus want to be baptized? What do you think it meant to hear his Father say, “This is my beloved son, with whom I am well-pleased”? Do you think Jesus needed this affirmation from God when he began his ministry?
4. Jesus was not in the wilderness and without food by chance. He was intentionally in the same position as Israel after the Exodus when they were lost in the wilderness and hungry. Read Exodus 15:21-16:3. Contrast the children of Israel’s reaction to being in the wilderness and being hungry and thirsty to what Jesus’ response was when he was tested.
5. How many times does Jesus quote the Scripture? What passages does he quote? How many times does Satan quote Scripture? What are his references? Describe Jesus’ physical and mental state when this temptation occurred. Why is this important?
6. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. What is the significance of these verses for our struggles with temptation and testing in our lives? How does Jesus victory over temptation help us to deal with our struggles?

Experiential: “Avoiding Temptation” Paper Plate Relay

Begin by having the group name the activities in our lives that help us to avoid temptation. (I.e. personal prayer, worship, daily scripture study, accountability, attending church, dressing modestly, choosing uplifting music, movies, TV, media, etc.) Then take those items and list each one on a separate paper plate. (You can do this for 2 teams-each having the same things written on paper plates)

The paper plates are stepping stones. The floor is temptation. Staying on the stepping stones helps us avoid temptation and be spiritually strengthened.

Players stand in a straight line. Before the game starts, each player is standing on a paper plate. The last player in line is standing on a plate AND holding a plate. At the word GO, the team needs to move forward only stepping on the paper plates (avoiding the floor, aka temptation) The only way they can advance is with the extra plate that is at the end, so the last player in line passes the plate forward. The first player in line places the extra plate on the floor and all players advance one plate forward. Again this is repeated, with the last player sending the extra plate forward, etc. When the last player in line crosses the finish line (safety at the end of the day) that team wins.

Talk about how this exercise can be compared to a day in their lives. From start to finish, every day we need each step to help us resist temptation.

Testimony Time

How did you rely on Jesus through the tests and temptations of this past week?

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

Lord, I Need You by Matt Maher - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gS9e0nxHP-w>

Great God, We Sing that Mighty Hand – Mennonite Hymnal #508

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Lord Jesus, you are the great high priest who understands every one of our weaknesses. You have been tempted even as we are tempted yet you did not give in to it's power. Therefore, we come before your throne, the throne of judgment now transformed to be the throne of grace. We draw near in confidence that we will receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Amen.