

Matthew 4:1-11 Discussion Questions

Read Matthew 4:1-11

1. What is the significance of Jesus being tested in desert for 40 days? What other important part of salvation history does this echo?
2. When Jesus responds to Satan he does so by quoting Scripture, and specifically parts of Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy is Moses' last sermon to the new generation of Israelites after the people had wandered through the wilderness for 40 years. How does this help us to understand what Jesus is doing?
3. In each temptation, Satan challenged Jesus to use his abilities, will, and resources for his own benefit, instead of simply trusting in the Father's plan and timing. Where are you currently being tempted to use your abilities, will, and resources to achieve your desired ends without trusting in God's plan and timing?
4. Jesus is the divine Son, the wisdom and power of God, and yet when faced with temptation he appeals to Scripture, the written word of God. What does that reveal about the nature of Scripture?
5. What is the difference between God's word and man's word? Why are we so tempted to rely upon the words of men—especially our own—as opposed to God's?
6. What does it mean to be "word-centered"?
 - a. How do we do this practically?
 - b. What can you do to live a more "word-centered" life?
7. What are some of the weaknesses or flaws that we find in the church today? How are these a result of not being word-centered?
8. What weaknesses or flaws in your own life are a result of not being word-centered?