**Elder Berry Ross January 8, 2023**

T**esting That Leads To Victory**

Matthew 4:1-11

**Key Truth:** The testing of Jesus illustrates how we are to rely on God for every challenge.

1. Satan tested Jesus concerning God’s love and will.

 A. Jesus was tested in hunger.

 1. Spiritual blessings are not for our own self-interest.

 2. Our abilities must not interfere with God’s will.

 B. Our testing is for God’s glory.

 C. Jesus responded with the undeniable word of truth.

 Deuteronomy 8:3

2. Jesus was tested to live according to the Scriptures.

 A. Satan falsely quotes Scriptures to try and trick Jesus.

 Psalm 91:11-12

 B. Living by the word means not jumping to conclusions.

 Deuteronomy 6:16

 C. Christians should read and study the Scriptures we

 live by. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

3. There are no shortcuts to kingdom victory.

 A. It is vital to understand our role in God’s Kingdom

 plan. 1 Peter 5:10

 B. Mission minded Christians do not compromise with

 evil. John 12:31; 14:30

 C. Faithfulness to God is the only way to victory.

 Psalm 22:22-31

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Be mindful to stay in God’s word; praying and asking the Lord for continued strength.

**Connection Group Homework:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Do you think being tempted is a sin? Does everyone experience temptation to the same things and in the same way? Explain.

What are some stories of temptation you remember from Scripture? (Think Jesus in the wilderness, Job’s trials, Joseph and Potiphar’s wife.) How do these stories make you feel about the temptations you face?

Read James 1:13: Let’s discuss the nature of temptation. What is the goal of temptation? What is the devil trying to get us to do when we are tempted?

Where do our temptations come from? Where do they not come from? Why is it important to realize these truths from God’s Word as we are being tempted?

If James is right and God cannot be tempted by evil, was Jesus (who is God) truly tempted? Explain.

Read Hebrews 4:15-16. What makes Jesus able to be tempted? Why is Jesus’ temptation a good thing for us?

What is one area of your life in which you are trying to obey God but are feeling tempted? How might we as a group support each other during such times?

What are some practical ways you can remind yourself of God’s strength as you are tempted this week?